



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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DOLE URGES CONFEREES TO RETAIN PRESENT APPORTIONMENT FORMULA FOR ESSENTIAL GAP AREAS

WASHINGTON -- Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.), in a statement today before the Senate, urged Senate conferees to the Federal Highway Aid Bill to retain the present apportionment formula for essential gap areas existing in the interstate highway system.

The proposed bill, S. 3073, makes a change in the present apportionment formula from 70 percent to 50 percent of funding distributed to the states.

"With this formula," Dole said, "34 states will gain monies to complete these sections of roadway, with 16 states, including the District of Columbia, suffering losses. Kansas is one of those states that will suffer a loss and is also one of those states with an 'essential gap,' although not designated as such by the Department of Transportation, located in its largest metropolitan area -- Kansas City."

Dole cited the importance of I-435, saying it was "projected by the Kansas Department of Transportation many years ago to serve as a major artery for the Kansas City metropolitan area. Kansas City International Airport was built accordingly. However, because Kansas, like many other states, has exhausted its funds for Fiscal Year 1978, this needed roadway cannot be finished.

"For many years future building, such as airports, has been based on transportation ability, and as in the case of Kansas City, there is not alternative. The present apportionment formula would expedite completion of these vital links rather than subject them to inflation's constant rise."