

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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ICC RULING ON RAIL SERVICE 'GOOD NEWS FOR NORTHERN KANSAS,' DOLE SAYS

WASHINGTON -- "The Interstate Commerce Commission's ruling today that it will approve Burlington-Northern rail service from Gem, Kansas, to Seibert, Colorado, is good news for northern Kansas," Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan.) said today.

This decision will result in rail service along the entire northern Kansas line of the bankrupt Rock Island. The temporary service is expected to go into effect by late September, and is approved through Nov. 30. Extensions can be approved to authorize service beyond that date.

"This announcement means that one railroad will be operating between Phillipsburg and the Colorado border, and that instead of dealing with several competing carriers, the Burlington Northern will be responsible for all service," Dole said. "This will lead to more uniform service, and will make it easier to arrange a permanent solution several months down the road.

"Northern Kansans are now assured of rail service for the rest of this fall. We can empty filled elevators and work towards a lasting solution to this problem. I feel confident we can retain service along this northern line."

Two obstacles to completion of service along the Rock Island line in northern Kansas had been the Union Pacific's authority to serve between Goodland and Colby, and track safety problems. These difficulties were resolved, with the Union Pacific agreeing to relinquish its rights in the interest of uniform service. In August, the Interstate Commerce Commission approved an application by the Mid-State Port Authority to operate from Phillipsburg east to McFarland, Kan.