

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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DOLE SEEKS DELAY IN SWITCH TO 9-DIGIT ZIP CODE

WASHINGTON -- Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan.) announced today that he is cosponsoring legislation to delay implementation of the U.S. Postal Service's plan to increase the number of Zip Code digits from five to nine.

"The cost of this change in the postal regulations will cost the American public close to \$1 billion," Dole said. "I am not sure that the people of Kansas are necessarily in favor of such a change. The Postal Service, which is not known for its efficiency, has not in my opinion demonstrated that a change to a nine-digit Zip Code will help improve service significantly. I am in favor of Congress examining this plan fully before any final decision is made."

The nine-digit code would enable mail to be sorted for individual mailmen and particular routes. The Postal Service claims that this will enable it to reduce manpower costs, which currently constitute 85 percent of postal expenses.

"At the present time, there is strong public resistance to making any such change," Dole said. "The cost to postal users, businesses and agencies who would need to convert computer tapes to accept the new digits would be great. Until we can effectively judge the impact that this regulation would have, it is important that we delay rushing onto new and untried ground."