

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 1984

CONTACT: WALT RIKER,
SCOTT RICHARDSON 202/224-1111

RAIL SERVICE TO NORTHERN KANSAS GUARANTEED -- DOLE HAILS FINANCING OF "HUCK LINE"

WASHINGTON -- At a special signing ceremony, Kansas Senator Bob Dole today hailed the completion of a federal financing agreement for a vital rail route across northern Kansas as "great news for the thousands of Kansans there who depend on rail service."

The Mid-States Port Authority, a coalition of 14 counties in northern Kansas headed by Phillipsburg's McDill "Huck" Boyd, signed the financing agreement with the Federal Railroad Administration as Senators Dole and Kassebaum looked on.

"I am extremely pleased with the Federal Railroad Administration's decision to sign this financing agreement. Many of us have worked long and hard to make sure that those Kansans who depend on rail service were not abandoned," Dole said.

"Ever since the Rock Island Railroad went bankrupt the prospect for continued rail service in the northern counties looked grim. For a time, we were even told by the trustee of the line that the tracks might be torn-up and sold for scrap. Well, thanks to the tenacious efforts of Huck Boyd, Senator Kassebaum, the Mid-States Port Authority and many others, the old Rock Island line is not heading to the scrap heap," Dole said. "The future looks bright indeed."

"Kansans know firsthand the need for quality rail service. There's no doubt that Huck Boyd and his tireless friends have performed a great service to their state," Dole said.

"Although the Mid-States Port Authority will own the line and the Kyle Railroad will operate it, it just seems to me that it should always be known as the "Huck Line," said Dole.

The county coalition's low-interest federal loan in the amount of \$18 million will assist in the purchase of approximately 460 miles extending from Limon, Colorado, to Hallam, Nebraska, and from Belleville, Kansas, to Clay Center, Kansas, and the rehabilitation of 370 miles of the line between Limon, Colorado, and Clifton, Kansas.