

# BOB DOLE



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## SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE APPROVES DOLE PROVISION TO DESIGNATE KANSAS CITY AS ONE METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA

WASHINGTON -- Kansas Senator Bob Dole today announced that the Senate Finance Committee has approved a Dole sponsored provision that would require all federal agencies to recognize the Kansas City metropolitan area as a single Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA).

"As I have told Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Director David Stockman, designating Kansas City as a Single Metropolitan Statistical Area will more accurately reflect the true economic posture of the community as it compares to other areas of the country," said Dole.

The need for legislation, Senator Dole explained, arose when OMB released its new Metropolitan Statistical Designations, listing Kansas City, Kansas and Kansas City, Missouri separately. Traditionally, Kansas City, Kansas and Kansas City, Missouri (plus surrounding counties) have been considered as one for census purposes which resulted in it being ranked as the 29th largest metropolitan area in the country. Although the two Kansas cities chose to be considered as two separate Primary Metropolitan Statistical Areas under the new OMB format, they were not told at the time of their decision that census data would be published listing the cities separately. As a result, Kansas City, Missouri and Kansas City, Kansas are now ranked 49th and 84th respectively. These lower rankings have had a substantial negative impact on both communities in that they are no longer regarded as major markets for prospective development and marketing efforts.

Despite being advised of the negative impact that its new designations were having on the Kansas City metropolitan area, OMB refused to consider changing its data so to reflect the two Kansas cities as a Single Metropolitan Statistical Area. Senator Dole, realizing the importance of the Kansas City metropolitan area being ranked in the top 30 Metropolitan areas in the country, pushed his legislation requiring the change be made.

"The stream of commerce has always flowed freely between Kansas and Missouri with government officials and citizens on both sides of the state line recognizing the need for a broad based community perspective," said Dole.

"I am always reluctant to enact new legislation if it is not absolutely necessary, but I am convinced that this provision is needed. In light of the OMB's refusal to voluntarily redesignate Kansas City, Kansas and Kansas City, Missouri as a Single Metropolitan Statistical Area, it was, in my opinion, time to act in the best interests of Kansas City."