

BOB DOLE



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GOVERNORS TELL DOLE THEY WILL SHARE IN DEFICIT REDUCTION EFFORTS

WASHINGTON -- The National Governors' Association (NGA) 9-member Executive Committee today pledged to Kansas Senator Bob Dole that it would share in the effort to help slash soaring federal deficits.

Dole, Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, spoke to the Executive Committee, which includes Kansas Governor John Carlin. Senator Dole, one of the Congressional leaders in the deficit reduction effort, has been critical of state executives who decry federal deficits yet come to Washington to ask for more and more federal dollars.

"I know the NGA has taken a strong position against federal deficits, which is admirable, but it seems to me that its position must be supported by action. The fact that deficits are a federal problem does not absolve states from sharing in the solutions," Dole said.

"I was pleased to hear today that state administrations will do their best to face up to the sacrifices and tough economic decisions that are necessary at every level of government if we are to restore fiscal sanity to our nation: everyone must ante up. After all, it's no secret states benefit from federal tax and spending policies. The governors I talked to know this fact and expressed a willingness to cooperate with Congress and the Administration."

Dole is Vice-Chairman of the House-Senate Conference Committee that is now working to put together a deficit reduction "downpayment" package that can be approved by both Congress and the President. Dole's Senate package will cut deficits about \$150 billion over the next three years.