

## News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



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### DOLE SAYS SUPERFUND COMPROMISE EFFORT 'CAME CLOSE,' PLEDGES STRONG SUPPORT FOR EXTENSION IN 1985

WASHINGTON--Senator Robert J. Dole (R.-Kansas) Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, said today that while efforts to reach agreement on a compromise Superfund bill this year 'came close', it appeared unlikely that a package could be worked out before the 98th Congress adjourns.

"We all want to extend Superfund--there is no disagreement on that," Dole said. "But since the program does not expire until next year, the question was whether we could work out a good compromise bill now to assure continuity. At my request the staff of the Senate Finance Committee has been studying possible Superfund options over the past three weeks, in consultation with the Joint Committee on Taxation, the Treasury Department, and the office of interested Senators on both sides of the aisle. Unfortunately, it has not been possible to work out a package that was agreeable to all the interested parties."

Senator Dole said that there would be a Superfund bill in 1985 that will strengthen and improve the program. "We will extend Superfund because the Federal government has a strong commitment to eliminate the threat toxic waste dumps pose to the health and safety of our citizens. And I will work with the Chairman of the Environment Committee, Bob Stafford, to develop a better program with a reasonable and equitable funding mechanism. Chairman Stafford deserves great credit for his effort this year, even though a bill did not get enacted."

Dole indicated that one problem this year was the short amount of time available for resolving very complex issues. "Who should pay for Superfund is a complicated question, and whichever way we turned in exploring options we met with some objection. One option we need to look into is the appropriate role for the States in cleaning up toxic wastes. Under current law the Federal government pays 90 percent of cleanup. Since this is a shared problem States probably should make a larger contribution.

Senator Dole concluded that "with the extra time now available, and the studies due to be completed later this year, we should be able to do a better and more thorough job in 1985."