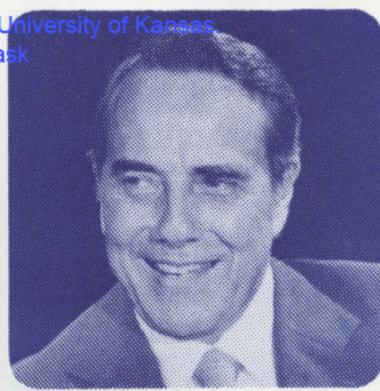


BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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

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CONTACT: BRENT BAHLER
(202) 224-6521

KANSAS DELEGATION SEEKS AID FOR DISPLACED WORKERS

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- All seven members of Kansas' congressional delegation have signed a letter urging Secretary of Labor William Brock to support the state's request of aid for workers in the depressed oil and gas industry.

Citing recent steep declines in crude oil prices and their dramatic impact on unemployment in Kansas, the delegation noted that "when coupled with the joblessness that has resulted from severally reduced revenues and business activity in agriculture, there are few readily available options for workers who have lost their jobs in the oil and gas industry.

"Retraining and job search assistance will be essential in conducting a successful program to prevent long term unemployment among these workers. We feel that the circumstances surrounding this dramatic drop in job opportunities typify the kind of problem the dislocated workers program was meant to address," the delegation wrote.

The letter went on to say that Kansas has put forth "a reasonable proposal" to offer much needed assistance and if the U.S. Department of Labor approves the request it will be "for the benefit of hundreds of Kansas workers."

The letter was written and signed by Senators Bob Dole and Nancy Kassebaum and Representatives Dan Glickman; Jan Meyers; Pat Roberts; Jim Slattery; and Bob Whittaker.