

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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DOLE URGES PRESIDENT TO GIVE PROMPT AID FOR FLOODED KANSANS

Washington, DC -- Senator Bob Dole (R-KS) today urged President Reagan to declare a large portion of southeastern Kansas a federal disaster area, thus entitling the region to emergency assistance.

"Although estimates of flood damage to personal and public property are now just beginning," Sen. Dole said in a letter to Reagan, "Kansans living in these areas have suffered extreme hardships over the past two weeks. I ask that our government act promptly to mitigate their suffering."

Dole noted that the governor requested a federal disaster declaration October 6, so that agriculture assistance could be provided to farmers in 13 southeastern Kansas counties. He said it is likely additional counties would be added to the list by the state.

"Declaring these areas as federal disaster areas would entitle the residents of these counties to low-interest loans for home and business repair, grants to those whose homes were destroyed, and matching grants for road repairs, bridge rebuilding and other public facilities," Sen. Dole informed Reagan.

Dole said federal assistance could be in the form of Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) and Small Business Administration (SBA) loans, depending on the need and eligibility. He said he would continue to monitor damage reports and seek additional avenues of assistance.