

BOB DOLE



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DOLE'S \$2.5 MILLION TORNADO RELIEF PACKAGE SURVIVES HOUSE/SENATE CONFERENCE

WASHINGTON -- SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE (R-KS) ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT THE HOUSE AND SENATE CONFERENCE HAS APPROVED HIS AMENDMENT TO PROVIDE \$2.5 MILLION IN SPECIAL FUNDING FOR THOSE COMMUNITIES DEVASTATED BY THE MARCH 13TH TORNADOES THAT RIPPED THROUGH CENTRAL KANSAS.

THE CONFERENCE IS EXPECTED TO COMPLETE WORK ON THE BILL LATER TODAY. FROM THERE THE CONFERENCE REPORT WILL GO TO THE HOUSE AND SENATE FOR FINAL APPROVAL, PROBABLY EARLY NEXT WEEK.

"HESSTON AND THE OTHER KANSAS COMMUNITIES HIT HARD BY THE TORNADOES ARE NOW ONE BIG STEP CLOSER TO GETTING THE RELIEF THEY NEED," DOLE SAID. "OF COURSE, IT'S NOT A DONE DEAL UNTIL THE PRESIDENT SIGNS THE DOTTED LINE, BUT I AM HAPPY TO REPORT THAT WE HAVE WON A CRUCIAL BATTLE TODAY."

SENATOR DOLE BEGAN HIS FIGHT FOR THE SPECIAL FUNDING AFTER HE LEARNED THE AREA WAS UNLIKELY TO QUALIFY FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE. THE SENATOR EXPLAINED, "THE CURRENT RULES CLEARLY DISCRIMINATE AGAINST SMALL COMMUNITIES. SINCE WE DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO CHANGE THE LAW, I HAD TO FIND A WAY TO PROVIDE DIRECT FUNDING THROUGH THE EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS BILL."

THE \$2,500,000 IN DISASTER ASSISTANCE WILL BE PROVIDED THROUGH THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION'S SUDDEN AND SEVERE DISASTER PROGRAM. THE MONEY CAN BE USED FOR A VARIETY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES INCLUDING STREET REPAIR AND RENOVATION OF THE DOWNTOWN AREA. THE SENATOR ALSO HELPED THE AREA QUALIFY FOR LOW-INTEREST FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION AND SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION LOANS.

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