

Bob Dole



NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 10, 1992

CONTACT: WALT RIKER
(202) 224-5358

KANSAS PRODUCT LIABILITY

Democrat Filibuster "Major Blow to Kansas Business & Aviation Industry"; Trial Lawyers Turn Screws on Senate Democrats to Kill Pro-Consumer, Pro-Jobs Bill

WASHINGTON -- Senator Bob Dole (R-Kansas) today called the U.S. Senate's vote to block debate on product liability reform legislation "a major blow to small business and aircraft manufacturers in Kansas." The reform legislation would limit manufacturers' exposure to massive lawsuits that drive up the cost of products and put people out of work.

On a procedural vote, the Senate voted 58-38 in favor of taking up the product liability legislation. However, that was still two votes short of the 60 votes required to shut off a Democrat filibuster against the bill.

"It's a disgrace how the Democrats buckled to their benefactors in the multimillion dollar trial lawyers lobby, and resorted to last minute armtwisting to frustrate the majority of Senators who support this pro-consumer, pro-jobs bill that is so critical to Kansas," Dole said.

"Just ask the folks on the assembly lines at Beech, Cessna, Lear and Boeing, just ask Main Street businesses that drive our state's economy, and they'll tell you the crippling cycle of skyrocketing liability must end," Dole continued.

"There's something wrong with a system which has added between \$70,000 and \$100,000 to the cost of every light aircraft, and which has decimated the general aviation industry that is so vital to thousands of jobs in our state. There's something wrong with a system in which doctors won't deliver babies for fear of lawsuits, where parents won't coach Little League because of the same fears, and where 95% of the cost of child vaccines is due to liability costs. There's something wrong with a system which has put 18 American companies out of the football helmet business in the past 18 years. And there's something wrong with a Congressional majority that stubbornly clings to a system that kills American jobs, kills American businesses and kills American competitiveness," Dole added.

"Let's face it, more than half of jury awards go not to victims but to trial lawyers, and when the American Trial Lawyers Association turns up the heat, the party that receives 90% of their contributions falls in line," Dole said. "It appears that the trial lawyers have even been able to silence the so-called consumer advocates, such as Common Cause and the national media."

###