

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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SEN. HUTCHISON ACQUITTAL

WASHINGTON -- Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole today made the following remarks on the Senate floor regarding the acquittal of Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-Texas):

I rise today to report some great news for the Senate which should be welcomed universally on both sides of the aisle. Our colleague from Texas, Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison was acquitted today of charges brought against her in a court in Fort Worth. This is great news for Kay and her husband Ray, great news for the people of Texas, and great news for the Senate.

My view has always been that the charges brought against Senator Hutchison were a politically-motivated attempt at character assassination. The real "crime" here was letting fairness take a back seat to politics. "Political show trials" have no place in Texas, and no place in America. Today's acquittal confirms what we've been saying all along.

And hopefully this verdict today will set a valuable example - it's time to stop politically-motivated legal harassment of public officials. If a legitimate case can be made, that's one thing. But, as today's verdict indicates, these things can get out of hand. When the facts aren't there to support a legitimate prosecution -- no matter whether you're a Democrat or a Republican -- it's nothing more than a politically-motivated witch hunt. That's a shame, and it has to stop.

I spoke with Senator Hutchison this afternoon. She is obviously delighted by today's development, and I know she looks forward to returning to the Senate when we come back from the recess. I know I speak for all my colleagues when I say we look forward to welcoming back this dedicated and talented public servant.

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