



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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DOLE SAYS ADMINISTRATION SHORT SIGHTED ON WATER: ASKS FURTHER HEARINGS ON GROVE, HILLSDALE

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Senator Bob Dole said today that the nation may find itself with a serious "water crisis" before the end of the century -- similar in scope to the present energy crisis -- if steps are not taken now to conserve and develop available water resources. He has asked the Subcommittee on Public Works of the Senate Appropriations Committee to conduct further hearings on deleted projects before the Public Works Appropriations bill is reported from Committee in late May. Dole made the request in letters to subcommittee Chairman, John Stennis, and ranking Republican, Mark Hatfield.

"Deletion of many of the water resource projects is a demonstration of the same short-sighted attitude that contributed to the energy shortage we face today," Dole said. Both Hillsdale and Grove Reservoirs in Kansas, which would provide millions of gallons of municipal and industrial water supply for surrounding communities were marked for deletion by the President. Hillsdale Reservoir is already under construction by the Army Corps of Engineers with \$17 million appropriated by Congress in the past two years. Preliminary studies have been completed on Grove, and the City of Topeka has indicated a willingness to contract for a water supply of 20 million gallons per day once it is constructed.

"Several Kansas communities will be left 'high and dry' if the President's decision to delete funding on these two projects stands. The economics of halting a \$55 million project -- when \$17 million has already been appropriated -- is also questionable," Dole noted. "I am hopeful that further hearings will explore the long range implications of these deletions on the nation's future water supply."