



# NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## DOLE URGES PRESIDENTIAL ATTENTION TO NORTHWEST KANSAS

WASHINGTON, D.C.---Senator Bob Dole today urged President Carter to "focus personal attention" on Kansas' appeal for reconsideration of an application for disaster assistance in Northwest Kansas.

Following is the text of Dole's letter to Carter:

Dear Mr. President:

It is my understanding that an appeal, by Governor Robert Bennett, of an unfavorable decision declaring the hard-hit Northwest area of Kansas as a non-disaster area, is in process.

Since the initial request by the Governor on March 22, 1977, other Kansans and I have expressed to you the importance of expedience in addressing the unfortunate situation in Northwest Kansas caused by recent severe winter weather conditions. As you may know, farmers in the area had a \$2.6 million loss in livestock and crops, and will also be burdened with a bill of \$250 to \$500 each due to rural electric losses. Many farmers are already operating at a deficit due to low farm prices and the additional burden would aggravate their difficulties. Without disaster relief, the people will be paying these higher costs through their electric utility rates over the next several years -- and their rates are already the highest in the State. The lack of federal assistance is likely to affect the agriculture-based economy of the entire Northwest part of the State.

The processing of this application has taken entirely too long in view of the genuine disaster. Mr. President, I respectfully urge that you focus personal attention on this appeal for consideration of federal disaster assistance.

Sincerely,  
Bob Dole

The six counties involved in the application are Cheyenne, Rawlins, Decatur, Sherman, Thomas and Wallace.