



# NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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## DOLE AMENDMENT PROVIDES GREATER ASSISTANCE FOR STRIP MINE RECLAMATION

WASHINGTON, D.C.--An amendment introduced by Senator Bob Dole Friday would encourage strip mine reclamation in four Southeast Kansas counties. The amendment, which was adopted by the Senate, modifies the cost share arrangement of the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund provision.

"We have nearly 45,000 acres of land which was strip mined for coal prior to the State reclamation law, according to a Wichita State University survey," Dole said, "and there is a higher expectation of returning the land to productivity than in many other states. The 45,000 acres are located in Crawford, Cherokee, Bourbon and Labette counties."

The Abandoned Mine Reclamation Funds is expected to accumulate about \$6 billion over the next two decades for reclamation of strip mined land that ceased to be mined prior to enactment of the bill. Before the Dole amendment passed, the bill authorized the Secretary of Interior to enter cost-sharing agreements for up to 80% of the reclamation cost on a maximum of 120 acres. Dole's amendment increased the authorization to a maximum of 320 acres, although the cost-share would be reduced proportionately beyond 120 acres. The Strip Mining bill was passed by the Senate on Friday.