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DOLE RECOMMENDS FGIS HEADQUARTERS LOCATE IN KANSAS CITY, KANSAS

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Senator Bob Dole has recommended that the Federal Grain Inspection Service headquarters be located in Kansas City, Kansas. In a letter to Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland, Dole said locating the new agency's headquarters outside Washington, D.C. "and in the heart of America, would help assure its independence.

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

As the Federal Grain Inspection Service is being formed to implement the provisions of the Grain Standards Act of 1976, it seems appropriate that you consider locating the headquarters for this agency in Kansas City, Kansas.

Since this agency is semi-autonomous, such a central location, away from Washington, D.C. and in the heart of America, would help assure its independence.

I would like to offer the following for your consideration of this suggestion:

--FGIS headquarters needs to be near the grain producing States and in the farm-to-market and farm-to-export flow of grain. The largest producers of wheat are Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas; of corn, Iowa, Illinois, Nebraska, and Minnesota; of oats, South Dakota, North Dakota, and Iowa. FGIS headquarters should be near the FGIS field offices that supervise grain sampling and grading operations by Boards of Trade.

--FGIS headquarters needs to be near the major grain export points. The largest grain export area is the gulf coast of Texas and Louisiana with eight FGIS field offices. The Great Lakes area is second with four field offices. Projected from data for the first half of 1977, about 3,200,000 bushels of grain will be exported this year and of this amount 75-80 percent moves through gulf ports, 15-20 percent moves through the Great Lakes, and the remaining 10 percent through Atlantic and Pacific coastal ports. FGIS headquarters should be centrally located with respect to the FGIS field offices that carry out sampling and grading of export grain shipments.

--FGIS headquarters needs to be near FGIS field offices. Most of the FGIS field offices are located along the Missouri/Mississippi Valley and in the major grain producing States. In accord with President Carter's emphasis on streamlined and efficient Federal operations, a central location for FGIS headquarters would provide better administration, supervision and support for the field offices and may contribute to avoiding the imposition of regional administrative offices between the headquarters and field offices. In addition, this could eliminate the cost of five regional offices now under discussion.

--The relocation of FGIS headquarters to a central point has further advantage of attracting and holding better qualified people without paying a premium to bring people into the expensive Washington area.

Kansas City, Kansas offers an excellent location for the FGIS headquarters. The Kansas City Metro Area is located in the center of the grain producing areas of the U.S. It is also situated advantageously between the Gulf and the Great Lakes ports. All major air lines serve Kansas City International Airport and provide convenient air travel to all FGIS field offices throughout the nation. Finally, the cost of living in the area is significantly lower, making it an attractive location to prospective employees.

Your favorable consideration of this proposal will be greatly appreciated.