



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 224-6521

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CONTACT: BOB WAITE, BILL KATS
202-224-8953, 224-8947

DOLE SAYS FAA SHOULD MODIFY PROPOSED FLIGHT RULES

WASHINGTON -- Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) said today that he has written the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) suggesting modifications in the agency's proposed "controlled visual flight" rules, and opposing portions of those rules.

In a letter to the FAA chief counsel, Dole urged modifications in the proposed regulations that require more filings of flight plans and more electronic equipment for certain aircraft.

"I am sure that all Kansans support the Federal Aviation Administration's goal of insuring greater flight safety for commercial and general aviation users," Dole said. "The significant increases in commercial air travel serve to make this need clear.

"However, increased safety can and must be achieved without placing an unnecessary burden on any individual user groups. I, therefore, wish to encourage the FAA to seriously consider, and adopt where appropriate, alternative proposals which achieve the desired goal of increased safety without foreclosing access to the airspace by different classes of users."

Dole recommended that the final ruling discard the adoption of mandatory flight plan filings for visual flight aircraft flying between 10,000 and 18,000 feet. "The flight plan requirement does almost nothing to improve real safety and will do much to frustrate properly equipped and piloted VFR flights," he said. "It is not clear that these restrictions are justified in many rural areas. An FAA survey of Kansas City traffic between 10,000 feet and 18,000 feet indicated an average hourly traffic count of seven."

Dole added that he did agree with proposed FAA efforts to improve traffic controller acceptance of general aviation flights through controlled airspace, and the FAA's intent to establish terminal control areas "customized to each locale" in order to provide the desired safety for commercial users as well as access into and through the airspace for general aviation users. He said the FAA must be open to alternatives to the FAA proposals submitted by general aviation organizations, and commended efforts in Kansas to "improve the same high-level goals of air safety." Dole organized a Wichita meeting on March 29 between the FAA and Kansas aviators to discuss Kansas input into the proposed regulations.