

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE INTRODUCES 'RULEMAKING IMPROVEMENTS ACT' AS REGULATORY REFORM VEHICLE

WASHINGTON-- Noting that federal regulation costs every man, woman and child in this nation more than \$400 annually, Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas) today introduced legislation which he said "would significantly improve the way we go about the regulatory process."

The bill, "The Rulemaking Improvements Act of 1979," would, according to Dole, "not undermine regulation, but would make it more effective by encouraging government to attain the benefits of regulation in the least burdensome way possible."

"The federal government has issued regulations at an ever-increasing rate, without regard for the cost of those regulations, raising prices without a corresponding rise in productivity. Clearly this has had a direct, negative effect on our economy-- it is inflationary and it makes our goods less competitive with other nations," said Dole.

"Just in this decade we in Congress have created seven new regulatory agencies, including OSHA and EPA, and enacted 29 new major regulatory statutes. According to a study by the Joint Economic Committee, direct federal regulatory expenditures rose from \$2.2 billion in 1974 to \$4.8 billion in 1979, a 115% increase just to operate the agencies. And research conducted by the Center for Study of American Business indicates that the cost of filling out federal paperwork alone comes to about \$25 to \$32 billion annually," added Dole.

A Cost-Analysis Approach

"What I propose is that we apply cost-benefit analysis techniques in our approach to government regulation," said Dole. "It is a sound, sensible approach. Agencies would be required to examine the cost and benefits of an intended rule and would be asked to determine whether or not there might be a more cost-effective way to achieve the same result."

According to Dole, the bill would do the following:

First, under this bill agencies could promulgate only ultimately beneficial rules; Second, agencies would be required to evaluate alternative means of achieving their goals and could promulgate only cost-effective rules. Third, this bill requires a more specific articulation of benefits and costs than any other proposal, including a description of who receives the benefits and who bears the burdens of a rule. Finally, the bill affords judicial review of the agency's regulatory analysis.

Dole, ranking Republican member of the Senate Finance Committee and a member of the Judiciary Committee, "passage of this bill would at last signal to the American people that we in Congress are attempting to bring under rational control the regulatory monster we have created. Regulation, at its best, saves lives and makes for a better environment. But, at worst, it can cause economic disaster and perhaps diminish the lives and future happiness of our citizens."

Cosponsors of the Dole bill include Senators John Heinz (R.-PA), Orrin Hatch (R.-Utah), Strom Thurmond (R.-S.C.), Alan K. Simpson (R. Wyo.), Paul Laxalt (R.-Nev.) and Ted Stevens (R.-Alaska).