

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

2213 Dirksen Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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May 4, 1981

DOLE CALLS FOR CONTINUED OPERATION OF BATF OFFICE IN WICHITA

WASHINGTON -- Senator Bob Dole, R.-Kans., today contacted Treasury Secretary Donald Regan to express his support of continued operation of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms office in Wichita. The office is one of 33 currently under consideration for closure, in Treasury Department efforts to comply with federal budget cuts.

In a letter to Secretary Regan, the Senate Finance Committee Chairman endorsed U.S. Attorney James Buchele's position that the BATF office in Wichita is too valuable to the residents of Kansas, and should not be among those offices which are selected to be closed, and consolidated into regional offices.

"I contacted the Secretary because it is clear that this office is vital to the safety of Kansans," said Senator Dole. "My support of President Reagan's budget cuts has not changed. I just feel very strongly that this is not one of the offices that BATF should consider closing."

"Wichita, unfortunately, has a relatively high incidence of violent crime," said Senator Dole, "and this office is already the only BATF station in the State."

Buchele had written Senator Dole last week to express his support of the Wichita operation.

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May 4, 1981

The Honorable Donald T. Regan
Secretary of the Treasury
15th and Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20220


Dear Mr. Secretary:

It has come to my attention that the Wichita office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms is one of 33 currently under consideration for closure. While it is my inclination to agree to budget cuts across the board, I am compelled to lend any assistance possible to the Wichita area law enforcement community on this particular issue.

By now, you should have received a copy of a letter of April 24 sent to me from Mr. James Buchele, the United States Attorney in Kansas. Jim's position has given him a unique vantage point from which the various law enforcement problems throughout the State may be viewed and diagnosed, and his case for continued operation of this office is quite persuasive. Recent studies, for instance, have indicated that Wichita's violent crime rate is unusually high for a city of its size. When one considers that this is the only ATF station in the State, the necessity of keeping it open to ensure the safety of those Americans living in Kansas becomes increasingly clear. I would very much appreciate your sincere consideration of Mr. Buchele's letter and would like to be kept informed of any decisions regarding the operation of the ATF office in Wichita.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,


BOB DOLE
United States Senate

BD:sr