

United States Senate

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KANSAS REPRESENTATIVES ALERT REAGAN TO KANSAS FLOOD DAMAGE

WASHINGTON -- Three Kansas congressional representatives today called President Reagan's attention to the damage and destruction in central Kansas caused by severe floods earlier this week, and urged him to help speed quick approval of any formal request for federal disaster assistance for the state.

The three, Senators Bob Dole and Nancy Kassebaum and Representative Pat Roberts, sent the following letter to Reagan today:

Dear Mr. President:

For several days record floods have ravaged the Kansas communities of Great Bend, Dundee and Pawnee Rock, and surrounding areas. Unusually heavy rains of up to 13 inches in 24 hours have resulted in the worst flooding in 16 years and the highest river crest in 60 years. The floods on the Arkansas River and Walnut Creek have covered three-fourths of Great Bend, forcing most of its 16,500 residents from their homes.

Miraculously, no deaths or serious injuries have been reported. Nonetheless, the property damage promises to be devastating to private homes, businesses, livestock and crops. Damage estimates are only now beginning as the water recedes, but recovery will be expensive.

It is anticipated that our governor will make a formal request for federal disaster assistance once a survey of the damage has begun. We would like to alert you to this severe damage and request that the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the White House move as quickly as possible once a request has been filed. At that time we will contact you with further information.

Thank you for your attention to the needs of our state in the wake of this natural disaster.

BOB DOLE
United States Senate

NANCY KASSEBAUM
United States Senate

PAT ROBERTS
Member of Congress