

News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1983

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DOLE, KASSEBAUM ASK FEDERAL OFFICIALS TO GRANT  
NATURAL GAS PRICE RELIEF

WASHINGTON -- Senators Bob Dole (R-Kan.) and Nancy Kassebaum (R-Kan.), in a letter to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Chairman Charles M. Butler, today encouraged the Commission to grant a petition for regulatory relief filed by Northwest Central Pipeline Corporation (formerly Cities Service Gas Company). The petition, if approved, would avoid natural gas rate increases of over \$578 million, over the next five years.

The petition seeks to delete a condition imposed by the Commission on the Rawlins-Hesston pipeline in 1978. The condition would have the effect of increasing the minimum volume of gas in the line. The purpose of the condition was to insure that the pipeline would secure adequate supplies of gas in Wyoming.

The letter points out, "The sharp reduction in sales of gas by pipelines in recent years has rendered this condition inappropriate. It is our understanding that if Northwest is required to meet the through-put requirement of the 1978 condition, substantial additional volumes of high cost gas will be purchased in Wyoming, with offsetting reductions in the take of more reasonably priced gas under old contracts."

"Given the recent rapid increase in the consumer price of natural gas, we believe it is essential that all steps be taken to avoid additional, unnecessary price increases."