

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE URGES SWIFT CONSENSUS ON SENATE REVENUE SHARING PACKAGE

WASHINGTON -- Senate Finance Committee Chairman Bob Dole (R-Kans.) today urged supporters of the general revenue sharing program to band together and back the revenue sharing reauthorization bill passed by the Senate on Wednesday. That bill provides for a three-year extension of the program at level funding of \$4.6 billion per year. The money goes in the form of general-purpose grants to local governments.

"The Senate did the responsible thing in acting to continue the revenue sharing program at current funding levels. Revenue sharing is one of the most efficient and effective Federal grant programs we have," Dole said. "Given the fiscal condition of the U.S. government, members of the Senate should be congratulated for resisting the temptation to add more money to revenue sharing. The important thing for this program is certainty, continuity, and stability. That is what the Senate bill provides, and that is what we should supply in a bill for the President to sign."

Senator Dole added that President Reagan has made clear his opposition to any funding increase, such as that provided in the House-passed bill. "The President is a strong advocate of revenue sharing, as am I," Dole said. "But he also insists, as I do, on fiscal responsibility in these times of record deficits that put our economic progress at risk. President Reagan will veto a revenue sharing bill that exceeds the current funding level -- that has been made clear in a letter from OMB Director Stockman and Treasury Secretary Regan, and I have been assured in conversations with administration officials that that is the President's view."

"Our concern now should be to secure prompt, final legislative action to extend revenue sharing before its September 30 expiration. It would be pointless to get bogged down in a dispute over funding increases that would add significantly to the Federal deficit but have little impact on any particular locality. Certainty of funding is more important, and we ought to move swiftly in conference with the House to adopt the basic Senate package," said Dole.