

## News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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### DOLE TALKS WITH JAPANESE AMBASSADOR; REITERATES INTEREST IN TOYOTA DECISION

(Washington, DC) -- In an intercontinental telephone call, Sen. Bob Dole and Japan's Ambassador to the U.S. this weekend discussed Kansas' prospects for landing Toyota's new American automobile manufacturing plant.

The ambassador, Nobuo Matsunaga, is in Tokyo for consultations with his government. Sen. Dole called Mr. Matsunaga Friday evening (Washington time; early Saturday morning Tokyo time) to discuss Toyota's interest in Kansas as the site of the automaker's new plant and to reiterate the state's advantages which would benefit the company.

Following his conversation with Ambassador Matsunaga, Sen. Dole said, "Mr. Matsunaga indicated that no decision had been made as yet. I asked the ambassador to find out for me Toyota's situation. Obviously Kansas has some good competition, and if the word comes back that there might be more I can do to enhance our prospects then we can work on it.

"The ambassador will be returning to the U.S. by mid-week, and I'll then talk with him again. If there is anything more I can do to help Kansas secure the plant, then I'm willing to go to bat as often as it takes. And I hope that my interest will be relayed to the Toyota executives who will make the final decision.

"While Toyota may have all the facts it needs to make a decision, I believe my discussions with the top government officials in Japan are the best way to let the automaker know how much we want them in Kansas," said Sen. Dole.

Dole first met with Ambassador Matsunaga on the Toyota matter prior to his visit to Japan and four other Pacific Rim nations last August. Sen. Dole later met personally with Shoichiro Toyoda, president of the Toyota, to promote Kansas as the best site for the new U.S. venture.