

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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GOOD NEWS FOR WICHITA --
BRAZILIANS TO LOWER TARIFFS ON U.S. AIRCRAFT

WASHINGTON -- AVIATION, ONE OF KANSAS' MOST IMPORTANT INDUSTRIES, WILL SOON GET A SHOT IN THE ARM ACCORDING TO KANSAS SENATOR BOB DOLE.

After years of pressuring the Brazilian government to reopen its market for small airplanes, Dole announced that officials there have agreed to lower their tariff barriers on the import of general aviation airplanes.

"Wichita is the home of the finest small aircraft in the world. Nevertheless, we've had great difficulty selling these planes in Brazil because of unfair trade barriers," Dole said. "But after pressing the case for the past few years, Brazil has agreed to unilaterally cut back its tariff from 50 to 20 percent."

Dole said the South Americans have also agreed to grant automatic import licenses once tariffs are paid. Previously, the Brazilian government could deny exporters a license even if they met the high tariff demands, thereby creating another loophole to keep out U.S. aircraft. Brazil was one of America's biggest aircraft markets nine years ago, but has been almost closed to imports since hiking its tariffs.

"This is a welcome first step in reopening this vital market," Dole added. "In fact, addressing this Kansas trade problem was a motivating factor in the development of the Senate's fair trade act, which I co-sponsored last month.

"But the best news would be an announcement saying that the Brazilian market is wide open. Until then, I'll continue to keep the pressure on," Dole concluded.