

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1987

CONTACT: WALT RIKER, DALE TATE
(202) 224-3135

REJECT HOUSE HIGHWAY BILL PROVISION ON SOUTH AFRICA

WASHINGTON -- SENATOR BOB DOLE (R-KS.) ALONG WITH SENATORS JESSE HELMS (R-N.C.) AND DICK LUGAR (R-IND.) HAVE ASKED THEIR COLLEAGUES TO REJECT A PROVISION IN THE HOUSE-PASSED HIGHWAY BILL ALLOWING STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO OVERRIDE FEDERAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING RULES THAT CONFLICT WITH LOCAL LAWS ON ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA.

A similar provision was twice rejected by the Senate and was not included in the South Africa sanctions legislation signed into law last year.

The text of the letter follows.

BOB DOLE
KANSAS

STANDING COMMITTEES
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY
FINANCE
RULES

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 6, 1987

Dear Colleague:

As a Senate Conferee on the comprehensive highway and mass transit authorization bill, you will have the responsibility to resolve with House conferees the significant differences between their version of the bill and ours.

One important difference is that the House version contains a provision allowing state and local governments to set aside Congressionally-mandated competitive bidding rules that conflict with local laws on economic relations with South Africa (section 110). The Senate twice rejected such a proposal last year, both times by overwhelming margins. No amendment of this nature was even offered at any stage during this year's Senate consideration of the highway bill.

The South Africa sanctions legislation which was enacted last year dealt with this issue decisively. It clearly reaffirmed both the integrity of the long-established competitive bidding process and the supremacy of the federal government in setting U.S. foreign policy. It also gave state and local governments a grace period until the end of 1986, during which to eliminate any conflict between their statutes and federal contract law (section 606). Many state and local governments used this grace period to amend their statutes accordingly.

Just as the Senate as a whole has done, we urge you to reject any language, such as section 110 of the House highway bill, that allows state and local governments to override federally-mandated standards for the sake of their own "foreign policy" initiatives. Attempting to force such provisions onto the highway bill will only complicate and delay final passage of a law urgently needed for the operation, maintenance and improvement of our highways and other transportation systems.

Sincerely yours,

Handwritten signatures of Bob Dole, Jesse Helms, and Dick Lugar.
BOB DOLE JESSE HELMS DICK LUGAR