

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR MID-AMERICA WORLD TRADE CENTER

Washington, D.C. -- Senator Bob Dole (R-KS) today announced that \$5 million for the Mid-America World Trade Center has been included in the Senate version of the fiscal year 1988 Agriculture Appropriations bill. This regional trade center, the first of its kind to be established, will be headquartered in Wichita, Kansas and serve Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming.

"I'm very pleased that we could obtain this funding for the Mid-America World Trade Center in the Senate Agriculture Appropriations bill," said Dole. "By emphasizing the region's economic strength and international trading potential, the trade center will give the economically-depressed Midwest states more visible representation among our trading partners."

"Given the overwhelming economic difficulties facing states in the Farm Belt, this type of regional enterprise should be given every encouragement. The Mid-America World Trade Center is a positive step towards strengthening the region's international competitiveness."

The Mid-America World Trade Center is accredited by the International World Trade Center Organization, a non-governmental organization of the United Nations. The Mid-America World Trade Center is now linked with a network of 55 cities in 29 countries -- including 10 in the United States.

This Wichita-based trade center will comprise a regional partnership of private enterprise and State governments with the goal of creating a higher level of international business involvement in the seven states represented. The regional affiliation is designed to create an entity with a sufficient population base to attract international visibility.

The Committee report on the Agriculture Appropriations bill was released this morning. The bill awaits action by the full Senate.