

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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DOLE, ROBERTS REPORT CONTINUED PROGRESS ON REFORMULATION OF CEDAR BLUFF RESERVOIR PROJECT

Washington, D.C. -- Senator Bob Dole (R-Ks) and Congressman Pat Roberts (R-Ks) announced today Senate and House committee approval of legislation that would authorize the reformulation of the Cedar Bluff Unit of the Pick-Sloan Missouri River Basin Program. The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee completed action on the bill which now moves to the Senate floor. The House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee also marked up Cedar Bluff legislation, virtually identical to the Senate bill, which was attached to a Interior Committee package of water bills.

"This is needed legislation. The federal government, state of Kansas, and the American taxpayer will all come out ahead with these changes," said Dole. "Mike Hayden has made this bill a priority for the state of Kansas. We have worked together on this much-needed project."

"This legislation will assure the long-term use of the Cedar Bluff Reservoir by the people of Kansas. It is recognition by Congress that the state has a major role to play in preserving Cedar Bluff for recreation and conservation," said Roberts.

Studies show a significant flow depletion in the Smoky Hill River above Cedar Bluff Reservoir. There has been a consistent decline in water supply available for irrigation from Cedar Bluff during the past 23 years and no deliveries of irrigation water have been made since 1978.

Currently, the federal government is holding a repayment contract with the irrigation district which they are unable to collect without adverse action to the district.

In recent years, the Cedar Bluff Irrigation District has not been able to pay construction repayment installments, or operation, maintenance, and replacement obligations under the present contract with the Bureau of Reclamation.

The federal government is allowing, on a temporary basis, the state to utilize former U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Fish Cultural Station located below the dam. The station is now operated by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks as a Canadian Goose rearing facility.

On December 17, 1987, the State of Kansas and the Bureau of Reclamation signed a memorandum of understanding. A contract has been negotiated, contingent upon this federal legislation, and signed by the state and the Bureau after the required public comment period.

The Kansas Legislature has made an FY 1989 appropriation of \$364,000 that will be used for the use of the conservation storage capacity in the reservoir in lieu of its repayment obligation to the United States.

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