

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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WRIGHT AMENDMENT

DOLE PUTS SENATE ON NOTICE: RESTRICTION ON KANSAS-DALLAS-LOVE FIELD WILL BE DEALT WITH

I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE A MINUTE TO RESPOND TO ALLEGATIONS MADE BY PREVIOUS SPEAKERS IN OPPOSITION TO MY AMENDMENT TO REPEAL THE WRIGHT AMENDMENT.

FIRST, IT IS ALLEGED THAT THIS AMENDMENT WOULD BE THE DEATH KNELL FOR REGIONAL AIRPORTS. I WOULD ASK MY COLLEAGUES FROM TEXAS WHY NO OTHER REGIONAL AIRPORT IN THE COUNTRY HAS NEEDED SIMILAR PROTECTION? WHY ARE THERE NO RESTRICTIONS ON HOUSTON HOBBY TO PROTECT HOUSTON INTERCONTINENTAL? WHY NO RESTRICTIONS ON MIDWAY TO PROTECT CHICAGO O'HARE? WHY NO RESTRICTIONS ON JOHN WAYNE AIRPORT TO PROTECT LOS ANGELES INTERNATIONAL?

THE REASON IS THAT DALLAS/FORT WORTH HAD A STRONG PROPONENT -- FORMER SPEAKER JIM WRIGHT. THE WRIGHT AMENDMENT IS A DISTORTION AND A COMPLETE DEVIATION FROM THE NORM.

THOSE OPPOSING THE AMENDMENT RAISED THE POSSIBILITY OF MAJOR AIRLINES FLOODING LOVE FIELD. I AGREE, AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHY I RAISED THE POSSIBILITY OF A COMPROMISE. OPPONENTS REFUSE TO ADDRESS THE COMPROMISE, IT WOULD MAKE THE RESTRICTIONS ON LOVE FIELD -- A RELATIVELY SMALL FACILITY CLOSE TO DOWNTOWN DALLAS -- SIMILAR TO THE RESTRICTIONS ON NATIONAL -- A SMALL FACILITY NEAR DOWNTOWN WASHINGTON.

OPPONENTS RAISED THE ISSUE OF THE STUDY CURRENTLY UNDERWAY AT THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION. SENIOR OFFICIALS AT DOT WHO ARE WORKING ON THE STUDY HAVE TOLD MY OFFICE THAT THE COMPROMISE WOULD SOLVE THE ENVIRONMENTAL "NOISE" PROBLEM, WOULD NOT LEAD TO MAJOR AIRLINES FLOODING LOVE FIELD, PROTECT REGIONAL CARRIERS IN THE AREA AND ASSIST THE VAST MAJORITY OF THE PUBLIC CURRENTLY BEING HURT BY THE WRIGHT AMENDMENT.

THEREFORE, I WITHDRAW THE AMENDMENT WITH THE PROMISE THAT, FOLLOWING RELEASE OF THIS REPORT WHICH IS EXPECTED IN THE NEXT TWO OR THREE WEEKS, THIS AMENDMENT OR THE COMPROMISE AMENDMENT WILL BE OFFERED TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS BILL. THIS WILL ALLOW ALL OF MY COLLEAGUES TO READ THE REPORT, LEARN OF THE NEGATIVE IMPACT THE WRIGHT AMENDMENT IS HAVING ON AIR PASSENGERS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, AND DECIDE TO END THIS GOVERNMENT IMPOSED MONOPOLY WHICH EXISTS AT ONLY ONE AIRPORT IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY.

AND, DURING THAT PERIOD, I WOULD ASK MY COLLEAGUES, WHEN FLYING HOME, TO ASK THE BUSINESS TRAVELERS YOU MEET, THE TOURISTS YOU MEET, WHO FLY TO DALLAS, WHETHER THEY WOULD LIKE TO LAND IN DOWNTOWN DALLAS OR WAY OUT OF TOWN, HALF WAY TO FORT WORTH.

THEY CAN LAND AT NATIONAL AND NOT DULLES OR BALTIMORE INTERNATIONAL, WHY CAN'T THEY LAND AT DALLAS LOVE FIELD?

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