

Bob Dole



NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

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PRESIDIO BILL

DOLE SUPPORTS PUBLIC/PRIVATE TRUST TO PRESERVE PRESIDIO: INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIP PROTECTS CALIFORNIA LANDMARK & TAXPAYERS

WASHINGTON -- Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole today made the following statement in the U.S. Senate in support of S. 594, a bill to create a public/private partnership to manage the historic Presidio in California:

"Today I am pleased to co-sponsor S. 594, legislation which provides for the administration of the Presidio in California. I have discussed this legislation with my colleagues, Sen. Campbell and Sen. Feinstein, and feel that this legislation allows for the national recognition of the Presidio while also taking into account concerns about the growing demand for federal funding for National Park services. Through this innovative approach to managing one of our nation's finest landmarks, we can ensure the preservation of the Presidio while also providing significant opportunities to the local community.

"The unique history of the Presidio's operation as a military post dates back to 1776. Its designation as a National Historic Landmark in 1962 recognized the importance of the post in many military operations. After the Army closed the post, the National Park Service took over the Presidio. When comparing our limited resources against the increasing number of national parks and historic sites which have become the responsibility of the federal government, it becomes apparent that we must find new ways to manage and preserve such important resources.

"This legislation proposes a 'Presidio Trust,' ensuring the continued preservation of the post with assistance from the local community. This trust, established within the Department of the Interior, would manage the renovation and leasing of specific Presidio properties. The revenues generated from these leases would then offset the costs of maintaining the Presidio as a National Park, reducing the need for federal funding. In my view, this legislation represents the best approach to ensure the efficient management and preservation of the Presidio at the least cost to the taxpayer. The importance of public sector participation in this effort to maintain the Presidio sets this initiative apart from others, and I am pleased to support it."

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