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SAN PEDRO, CALIF., Feb. 15 -- "Americans must face up to a new reality -- that we have taken nature for granted and now we must pay for it," U.S. Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kans.) said here last night.

Speaking at a dinner sponsored by the Republican Committee of the 17th Congressional District in Los Angeles County, Dole said, "We have learned that nature does not have an unlimited capacity to absorb wastes and production by-products. Now someone has to pay the costs of our exceedingly productive and often wasteful society."

"The President's legislative proposals, made just this week," Dole said, "provide guidelines for the Congress to develop necessary environmental laws. Congress, however, cannot alone make our air and water clean and solve our solid waste disposal problems. If the President's proposals to halt pollution and restore the environment are to succeed, every citizen, private group and industry must do its part."