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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C., August 5, 1971 --- U.S. Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kans.)

cosponsored legislation today that is designed to help insure an abundant supply of natural gas to American consumers.

The bill would relieve the Federal Power Commission of its current responsibility of setting the price for natural gas and thus allowing the price to be determined in the marketplace.

The Kansas Senator attributes the current natural gas shortage to the price regulation by the FPC. Dole contends that while FPC price regulation has held the price for natural gas below free market levels, the action has resulted in fuel shortages for consumers because the low price has discouraged producers from exploring for reserves and from developing adequate supplies.

Dole said, "The consumer's best interest has not been served by the past 17 years of FPC regulation of natural gas prices. The result of this regulation of this regulation is that supplies of natural gas have been effectively dried up to the point that many consumers are presently being denied the use of this desirable fuel."

Natural gas, he explained, is an ideal fuel because of its low pollutant nature. "Consistent with our efforts to maintain a clean environment," Dole said, "we should act to provide adequate supplies of this clean burning fuel."

The Senate Bill, introduced today by U.S. Sen. John G. Tower (R-Texas), would provide "that certain provisions of the Natural Gas Act relating to rates and charges shall not apply to persons engaged in the production or gathering and sale but not in the transmission of natural gas."