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NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Senator Bob Dole testified today before the U.S. Office of Oil and Gas Oil Policy Committee, and before the Senate Agriculture Research Subcommittee on the impact of the present fuel crisis on agriculture.

Dole stated that he felt the voluntary allocation program has been unsuccessful. "It has not inspired confidence in our farmers. Thus, it has not provided a foundation for the growth in agricultural production."

The Kansas Senator pointed out that the present fuel situation is not simply a regional problem or a situation facing one sector of the economy. It is a problem which concerns every American -- from the farmer in Kansas who wants to plant and harvest his crops, to the housewife in New York City who wants a variety of products and reasonable prices at the supermarket.

"The farmers of America cannot burn voluntary guidelines and suggested priorities in their tractors. They must have fuel -- gasoline, diesel oil, and LP gas -- and they must have it at the right time," Dole said. "I cannot place much faith in bureaucratic assurances -- even though made in the utmost good faith. Voluntary guidelines and the threat of more stringent measures cannot guarantee the fuel our farmers need. Therefore, the time has come -- while it is still not too late -- to establish a strong, mandatory and effective fuel allocation program."

Congress has provided the authority for these controls in legislation passed earlier this year, but to date this authority has only been exercised to establish the voluntary program.