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DOLE URGES COMMON SENSE ON FUEL ALLOCATION IMPLEMENTATION

LAWRENCE, KANSAS--Senator Bob Dole said today that fuel dealers should be permitted greater flexibility under the mandatory fuel allocation program and urged the Office of Oil and Gas to permit them to employ a common sense approach to fuel distribution.

Dole was in Lawrence to attend the KU - Colorado football game Saturday afternoon.

Dole said, "No set of regulations can be expected to cover every case. Under current regulations, however, some farmers in need of diesel, and homeowners in need of heating oil, are unable to purchase fuel because they don't fit the guidelines.

"Fuel dealers should be told by the Office of Oil and Gas that the law does not compel them to leave a farmer without harvest fuel or a family quite literally out in the cold--without heating oil. They ought to be free to use their own common sense in making distribution decisions in cases of hardship."

In response, the Office of Oil and Gas has told Dole that attempts are being made to remedy the problem and that major oil companies are being contacted in an effort to work out a satisfactory resolution.

"As matters stand now," Dole said, "a two or three week wait for processing of a hardship application could be disastrous for a farmer or a homeowner."

Dole also indicated that he had learned that a new federal office, the Petroleum Allocation Office, has been established under the directorship of Retired Admiral Rich, a former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense. The PAO will take over the administration of the allocation program.