



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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DOLE APPLAUDS PERMIT DECISION BY WHITE HOUSE

Senator Bob Dole said he was "pleased" by the White House announcement this morning that the so-called "Phase II" of the national "dredge and fill" permit program will be delayed for sixty days. Originally scheduled to go into effect on July 1, 1976, "Phase II" will allow the Army Corps of Engineers to expand their permit program to cover dredging and filling activities on inland tributaries, ponds and lakes with more than five surface acres, and adjacent wetlands.

The White House announcement followed a request for such a delay by Senator Dole and twenty-nine other Senators last month, who called for "a final resolution of the problem by Congress." Earlier action by the House of Representatives narrowed the extent of the permit program considerably, and it remains for the Senate to express itself on the issue. The program, as interpreted by the Courts last year, would require a federal permit for many types of normal farming, forestry, and construction activities near water.

Senator Dole said that he is confident a majority of the Senate wants to exempt normal farming activity from the permit requirement and allow state and local governments to regulate dredging and filling on small waterways. "This is another example of unnecessary federal intrusion into routine agricultural activity, and it has resulted from an erroneous Court interpretation of the 1972 Federal Water Pollution Control Act," Dole said. "It is up to Congress to clarify this issue, and get the Corps of Engineers off the farmer's back."