



# NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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## DOLE CALLS THREAT OF IMPORT FEES A 'SLAP IN THE FACE' TO CONSUMERS

WASHINGTON -- Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) today called President Carter's threat to impose fees on imported oil "a slap in the face to the American consumer."

Reacting to reports that the President would impose the fees unless Congress acts on the fragmented energy bill, Dole said, "This news is particularly disturbing because it comes at a time when American taxpayers are pleading for tax relief. Instead, the President is contemplating issuing an executive fiat that could cost American people as much as \$12 billion this year."

"The President seems to be undermining his own foreign policy. The OPEC cartel has shown a willingness to cooperate with America by holding oil prices down. Now President Carter is suggesting to these OPEC nations that the American consumer is willing to absorb even higher imported oil prices."

Dole said he had sent a letter to Majority Leader Robert Byrd, asking him to expedite action on Senate Concurrent Resolution 73, which was introduced in April by Sen. Dole and cosponsored by 29 senators.

The resolution would put the Senate on record as opposing oil import fees as a method of reducing imports of crude oil.

Following is the text of the letter to Sen. Byrd:

Recent reports indicate the President is considering imposing an oil import fee on imported crude oil as an energy conservation measure.

On April 3rd I introduced S. Con. Res. 73, expressing the sense of the Congress that import fees are largely ineffective in fighting our oil import problem. The Senate Finance Committee reported S. Con. Res. 73 on May 9th and it is presently cosponsored by 29 Senators.

In my opinion, an import fee on imported oil will exacerbate our already severe inflationary economy. Import fees will be a clear signal to the OPEC cartel that America is willing to pay higher prices for oil without fear of injury to our economy. This comes at a time when OPEC has cooperated in holding oil prices down. In addition, studies have shown that an import fee will cost consumers billions of dollars without any significant energy savings.

Because of the President's stand, I believe this issue should be addressed. In order to rationally consider energy legislation during the remainder of this session, the Congress should take up S. Con. Res. 73 as soon as possible.