



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.-Kans.)

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DOLE BEEF REFERENDUM AMENDMENT GETS HOUSE-SENATE APPROVAL

WASHINGTON -- An amendment introduced by Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) lowering the requirement for a beef referendum approval from two-thirds to a simple majority was approved by a joint conference committee of the House and Senate today.

The amendment, added to a general farm credit bill in the Senate, was approved after an unsuccessful attempt by House conferees to require that the majority represent ownership of two-thirds of the cattle owned by voters in the referendum.

"This amendment," Dole said, "will facilitate passage of a national referendum. The vote on the beef referendum last summer was 56.5 percent approval nationwide, and in Kansas was 60 percent. In 39 states, a majority of the cattlemen approved the referendum.

"One of the main benefits that would come from approval of the referendum and the subsequent establishment of a beef producers board is the increase in nutrition research that would be provided. One of the major research concerns that the board would be addressing is the impact of good nutrition on the prevention of disease. Most recently there have been substantial inroads in tying nutrition to the prevention of cancer.

"All funds for this effort will come from cattlemen through the check-off program provided in the referendum, and any cattlemen not wanting to participate may have check-off funds refunded."