



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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DOLE SAYS CARTER ENERGY PROGRAM WOULD COST CONSUMERS BILLIONS

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J.-- Senator Bob Dole charged today that the Carter Administration's energy program would cost American consumers billions of dollars each year while appreciably reducing the nation's reliance on costly imported petroleum.

"At a time when the American people want--and deserve--tax relief, we shouldn't expect them to cough up another \$32 to \$40 million a day in tax-induced energy costs. But that's exactly what President Carter's threat to impose huge import fees on imported oil would mean to consumers in New Jersey and throughout the East," Dole said.

"What's incredible is that the President and his allies in Congress would seek such a huge tax despite reputable studies by the Congressional Budget Office and others which concluded that import fees would have no more than a minor effect on U.S. fuel imports.

"If import fees would substantially reduce American reliance on imported oil, if import fees would encourage more domestic energy production, or if import fees would ease our balance of trade deficit, they might be worthwhile. But import fees just won't achieve these results. They only slow economic recovery, destroy American jobs, exacerbate inflation, and rob American workers of a bigger and bigger portion of their paychecks.

"The President still hasn't learned that the Congress isn't going to let him try to tax his way out of the energy crisis. It won't work. And the American people won't stand for it."

Dole said that he opposed huge energy taxes and, instead, supported alternative energy policies which wouldn't force consumers and taxpayers to bear an inordinate share of the burden.