

BOB DOLE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, AUGUST 10, 1984

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SENATE PASSES DOLE EXPORT COMMISSION BILL

WASHINGTON — The United States Senate today passed legislation sponsored by Kansas Senator Bob Dole to establish a national commission on agricultural trade and export policy.

Senator Dole hailed the action as "a clear message to American farmers — and to our foreign customers and competitors — that the United States has decided to take a serious, no-holds-barred look at shaping an effective policy for farm trade."

"After unanimous passage by the House earlier this week, I fully expect the commission bill to be quickly signed by President Reagan and that the Commission will begin its work sometime this Fall in order to have input on the 1985 farm bill," said Dole.

The proposed Commission under the Dole bill would include 35 members, including 20 from private sector agriculture and farming, 12 members of the principal trade-related Congressional committees, and three non-voting representatives from the Administration. The legislation provides the Commission with a broad mandate to examine current and possible farm export policies, programs, and practices and to make recommendations on how they can be improved as part of a comprehensive trade policy. The Commission would make an initial report in time for hearings on the 1985 farm bill in March 1985, and would make its final report by July 1986.

"One of the key provisions in the bill will require that the Commission's direct staff and travel expenses be financed by private sector contributions," Dole said. "With sufficient safeguards to prevent domination by the larger interests included in the bill language, this provision should give the Commission's findings and recommendations more clout and credibility with the Congress, the Administration, and with the private sector itself."

The Dole Commission was enthusiastically supported by 18 major national and regional farm organizations. In addition, strong support was received from the Kansas Farm Bureau and the Kansas Wheat Growers Association of America.