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BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510-1601

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CONTACT: WALT RIKER, DALE TATE (202) 224-3135

DOLE WELCOMES DROUGHT PACKAGE: TIME FOR REPONSIBLE ACTION; "NO WINDFALLS" WITH TAXPAYER DOLLARS

WASHINGTON -- SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE TODAY PLEDGED "QUICK ACTION" ON A BI-PARTISAN LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE DESIGNED TO TARGET AID TO DROUGHT-RACKED AMERICAN FARMERS.

"THE AMERICAN FARMER NEEDS HELP, IT'S THAT SIMPLE," DOLE SAID. "THE GOOD NEWS IS IT LOOKS LIKE WE HAVE THE BI-PARTISAN RESOLVE NECESSARY TO DO IT RIGHT. SO IT'S TIME FOR CONGRESS TO MOVE QUICKLY AND -- LET ME UNDERSCORE -- RESPONSIBLY.

"WE MUST MAKE CERTAIN THAT OUR RELIEF PACKAGE IS TARGETED TO THOSE WHO NEED THE HELP. THERE CAN BE NO WINDFALLS FOR ANY INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP. WE OWE THAT MUCH TO THE FARMERS AND THE TAXPAYERS.

"I CONGRATULATE THE MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE FOR THEIR LEADERSHIP AND FOR THEIR DETERMINATION TO KEEP POLITICS OUT OF THE DROUGHT CRISIS: THE LAST THING THE AMERICAN FARMER NEEDS IS SOMEONE SCORING POLITICAL POINTS FROM THEIR MISERY.

"THERE WILL BE HEARINGS, SOME DEBATE AND SOME AMENDMENTS, BUT IF WE STAY WITH THE BOTTON LINE -- HELPING RURAL AMERICA -- REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS IN CONGRESS CAN DO THE RIGHT THING. THERE'S NO TIME TO LOSE."