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DOLE URGES WARNING AGAINST EEC RESTRICTIONS ON CORN GLUTEN

WASHINGTON -- In a letter to Secretary of State George Schultz and United States Trade Representative Clayton Yeutter, Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan) today urged the Administration to "leave no doubt of U.S. opposition" to reported threats by the European Economic Community (EEC) of restricting U.S. corn gluten feed imports. Dole was joined on the letter by Senators David Karnes (R-Neb), and David Durenberger and Rudy Boschwitz (R-Minn).

"This represents a \$600 - \$700 million export market for U.S. corn farmers and is one of the few remaining U.S. agricultural products that has unrestricted or 'zero-duty binding' access to the EEC's market. In addition, the production of corn gluten feed directly employs 10,000 workers plus the additional employment in the transportation and support services," Dole said in his letter. Corn gluten feed is a by-product of the wet milling process.

"The European Corn Growers have filed a countervailing duty suit against U.S. imports of corn gluten feed and the European Commission is reportedly preparing to initiate an investigation. The petition is filed by growers who have no standing in a case concerning processed products and is contrary to both the GATT and the EEC's own law."

"It is important to prevent the type of one-upmanship that this action invites and to convey our firm commitment to protect U.S. interests in this matter," concluded Dole's letter.