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DOLE SENDS TELEGRAMS TO 11 TOP AMERICAN OIL COMPANY C.E.O.'S; WARNS OF CONGRESSIONAL BACKLASH, POSSIBLE WINDFALL PROFIT TAX

WASHINGTON - Skyrocketing prices at the gas pumps have prompted Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole (R-KS) to send telegrams to the C.E.O.'s of 11 top American oil companies warning of a Congressional backlash from perceived gasoline price gouging.

The text of the telegram is as follows:

Recent events in the Middle East have united Americans behind the President and his decision to defend the interests of the United States and our allies in this vital region.

Certainly, your industry has a primary interest in this affair. In that light, recent significant increases in the price of petroleum products seem to be premature -- at best.

As you are aware, several Congressional Committees have held hearings on these price increases, which have alarmed American consumers. I urge you to heed the advice of President Bush and put any decision on price increases for petroleum prices off until clear and convincing justifications can be presented.

I can assure you that it will be very difficult to stop legislation controlling the prices of petroleum products or taxing profits resulting from these increases should no action be taken by the oil industry. I am concerned this result would far outweigh any temporary benefit that might be realized by the industry.

The telegrams were sent to:

Mr. Richard M. Morrow Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer Amoco Corporation

Mr. Allen E. Murray Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer Mobil Corporation

Mr. Constantine S. Nicandros President and Chief Executive Officer Conoco, Inc.

Mr. Lawrence G. Rawl Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Exxon Corporation

Mr. Frank H. Richardson President and Chief Executive Officer Shell Oil Company Mr. James W. Kinnear President and Chief Executive Officer Texaco Inc.

Mr. Robert Horton President and Chief Executive Officer BP America, Inc.

Mr. Richard J. Stegemeier Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer Unocal Corporation

Mr. James L. Pate Chief Executive Officer Pennzoil Co.

Mr. Lodwrick M. Cook Chairman and Chief Executive Officer ARCO

Mr. Kenneth T. Derr Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer Chevron Corporation