

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 20, 1990

CONTACT: WALT RIKER  
(202) 224-5358

DOLE COMMERCIAL DRIVERS LICENSE WAIVER LEGISLATION PASSES SENATE

WASHINGTON - FARM TRANSPORTATION CHORES AND HARVEST CREWS MAY BE FREED FROM SOME TROUBLESOME RED TAPE AS A BILL BY SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE (R-KS) MOVED ONE STEP CLOSER TO LAW TODAY.

THE SENATE TODAY PASSED THE DOLE BILL THAT WOULD GIVE STATES THE AUTHORITY TO WAIVE APPLICATION OF THE COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY ACT OF 1986 WITH RESPECT TO VEHICLES USED TO TRANSPORT SUPPLIES TO AND FROM A FARM, AND TO VEHICLES USED FOR CUSTOM HARVESTING, WHETHER OR NOT SUCH VEHICLES ARE CONTROLLED OR OPERATED BY THE FARMER.

"FARMERS HAVE ENOUGH PROBLEMS TO DEAL WITH, THEY DON'T NEED ANY MORE RED TAPE FROM WASHINGTON," DOLE SAID. "WE NEED CUSTOM CREWS IN OUR STATE AT HARVEST TIME AND WE ALSO NEED OUR STATES TO DECIDE WHAT KIND OF LICENSES OUR FARM WORKERS NEED, NOT SOME BUREAUCRAT IN WASHINGTON."

TWO YEARS AGO, THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION GAVE STATES THE AUTHORITY TO WAIVE COMMERCIAL DRIVERS LICENSE REQUIREMENTS FOR FARM VEHICLES, BUT FAILED TO RECOGNIZE THAT THE MAJORITY OF THESE SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL SHIPMENTS WERE CARRIED OUT BY AGRICULTURAL RETAIL OUTLETS, NOT NECESSARILY BY FARMERS. IN ADDITION, THE WAIVER REGULATIONS FAILED TO RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CUSTOM HARVESTING INDUSTRY, WHICH RELIES ON SEASONAL DRIVERS AND IS MUCH DIFFERENT THAN OTHER COMMERCIAL TRUCK OPERATIONS. OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO SENATOR DOLE WAS THE POTENTIAL IMPACT ON FUTURE GRAIN HARVESTS IF A SHORTAGE OF DRIVERS WERE TO OCCUR.

SENATOR DOLE INTRODUCED THE BILL MAY 18 AND WAS PASSED AS AN AMENDMENT TO LEGISLATION PROHIBITING FOOD PRODUCTS FROM BEING TRANSPORTED BY TRUCKS USED FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

###