

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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

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CONTACT: WALT RIKER
(202) 224-5358

ETHANOL

DOLE CLEAN AIR, BUDGET PROPOSALS GIVE TWIN BOOST TO ETHANOL

WASHINGTON - IN IT'S FINAL HOURS, THE 101ST CONGRESS GAVE A MAJOR BOOST TO CLEAN-BURNING, GRAIN-BASED ETHANOL WITH PASSAGE OF BOTH THE CLEAN AIR BILL AND THE BIPARTISAN DEFICIT REDUCTION PACKAGE. BOTH BILLS PASSED SATURDAY INCLUDE PROVISIONS BACKED BY SENATOR BOB DOLE (R-KS) DESIGNED TO INCREASE THE PRODUCTION AND USE OF ETHANOL AS AN ALTERNATIVE FUEL.

"SADDAM HUSSEIN'S ENERGY BLACKMAIL SERVES AS A VALUABLE WAKE-UP CALL THAT AMERICA NEEDS TO PUT A SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON HOME-GROWN RENEWABLE FUELS, SUCH AS ETHANOL," DOLE SAID. "ENCOURAGING THE USE OF CLEAN-BURNING ETHANOL MAKES GOOD SENSE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, AND MAKES FOR COMMONSENSE FARM POLICY BY HELPING AMERICAN FARMERS WHO GROW COMMODITIES USED TO MAKE ETHANOL."

THE FIVE-YEAR DEFICIT REDUCTION PACKAGE INCLUDES SENATOR DOLE'S PROVISION TO EXTEND THROUGH THE YEAR 2000 TWO TAX INCENTIVES FOR ETHANOL PRODUCTION -- THE GAS TAX EXEMPTION AND THE SO-CALLED BLENDER'S CREDIT. IN ADDITION, THE BENEFITS OF THESE INCENTIVES ARE SHIFTED TOWARDS SMALL INDEPENDENT ETHANOL PRODUCERS.

"HOPEFULLY, THESE INCENTIVES WILL STIMULATE NEW ENTRANTS INTO THIS IMPORTANT INDUSTRY, CREATING GREATER DEMAND FOR OUR GRAINS, AS WELL AS GIVE A NEEDED BOOST TO OUR SMALL PRODUCERS IN KANSAS STRUGGLING TO TURN BUSHELS OF GRAIN INTO BARRELS OF ENERGY," DOLE SAID.

THE LANDMARK CLEAN AIR BILL, GIVEN FINAL APPROVAL BY THE SENATE ON SATURDAY, FEATURES A DOLE-SPONSORED PROVISION THAT ENSURES THAT ETHANOL WILL BE A PART OF THE NEW FUEL BLENDS THAT WILL BE USED TO REDUCE URBAN AIR POLLUTION IN OUR NATION'S DIRTIEST CITIES. THE CLEAN AIR BILL REQUIRES THAT GASOLINE SOLD IN HIGH-SMOG AREAS BE 15% CLEANER TOWARD THE END OF THE DECADE.

INDUSTRY EXPERTS ESTIMATE THAT THE COMBINATION OF TAX INCENTIVES AND THE PUBLIC POLICY DECISION TO USE CLEAN-BURNING ALCOHOL FUELS IN GASOLINE COULD TRIPLE THE SIZE OF THE DOMESTIC ALTERNATIVE FUEL INDUSTRY.

"IT'S TIME TO GET OUR DOMESTIC ENERGY ACT TOGETHER, FOR THE SAKE OF OUR ENERGY SECURITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT," DOLE SAID. "I KNOW KANSAS STANDS READY WITH THE DESIRE AND THE RESOURCES TO PLAY A BIG PART IN A REVITALIZED DOMESTIC ENERGY INDUSTRY."

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