

*Bob Dole*



**NEWS**

**U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS**

**FROM:**

**SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*  
*Thursday, May 2, 1996*

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## WTO UPDATE

**IN WAKE OF U.S. LOSS BEFORE WTO, DOLE RENEWS PUSH FOR HIS PLAN TO PROTECT AGAINST WTO ABUSES; URGES PRESIDENT, CONGRESSIONAL DEMOCRATS TO JOIN IN PASSING OVERDUE REFORM**

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole late Wednesday made the following statement:

The World Trade organization has just issued its first decision in a trade case brought under the new dispute settlement system.

The case was brought against the United States by Venezuela and Brazil. The allegation was that a U.S. environmental regulation, issued under the Clean Air Act, discriminated against imported gasoline.

On Monday, the United States lost the case. President Clinton must now decide whether to comply with the WTO decision. If he decides the U.S. should comply, he must announce a plan for doing so.

I believe the American people deserve an explanation from President Clinton about this case. They deserve an explanation about what this case might mean in the future for other U.S. laws and regulations.

Clearly there will be future WTO cases where the U.S. will be the losing party. We cannot expect to win every case.

### **America Must Not Surrender Sovereignty to WTO Bureaucrats**

Perhaps Monday's case was properly decided. But it seems to me that our laws should continue to be a matter for Americans, not international judges, to determine. We should decide what our environmental laws will be. We should decide what kinds of regulations are necessary to protect our environment. We should decide that our children deserve cleaner air and purer water, not some bureaucrat in Geneva.

We do not always agree, and that is part of our democratic process. But at least we work out for ourselves what laws and regulations are best for America.

I believe President Clinton has simply failed to tell the American people what his strategy is for defending other American laws in the future from potential wrongful attack in the WTO. As far as I know, President Clinton has been silent on this question, one that is deeply troubling to many Americans.

### **Dole Plan Protects American Sovereignty**

I have a strategy for defending American laws. I proposed a plan in January 1995 that would ensure that the U.S. could withdraw from the WTO if our laws, and our rights, were being trampled in Geneva.

Many, many Americans shared my concern -- that the WTO might begin to operate out of control, might begin to issue rulings that were outside its mandate, in short, that the WTO might abuse its authority. I was concerned that if this were to happen, the U.S. would not have any adequate mechanism to deal with it. My proposal creates such a mechanism. It allows us to get all the benefits of the WTO, but protects us against the potential harm should the WTO fail to honor our rights.

### **Act Now to Pass Dole Plan**

Unfortunately, my proposal has not yet become law. There is strong bipartisan support for this proposal, but one of my colleagues on the other side has had a hold on this bill for several months. We hope to move on it early this month or next month.

President Clinton supports my proposal. In fact, he endorsed my proposal when I endorsed the GATT at the White House nearly 2 years ago. I certainly would appreciate the President's help in getting this measure passed. I think it would be helpful to the President and to the country. It would answer a lot of concerns American workers have who are frustrated about the loss of American jobs.

So I hope we can have action on my proposal in the very near future with the President's support.

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