

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE CALLS FOR GAO SURVEY OF DIESEL SHORTAGES

WASHINGTON -- Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) today requested that the General Accounting Office conduct a study of the causes of the current diesel shortages and that it project diesel and heating oil needs for the fall and winter.

In a letter to GAO Comptroller General Elmer B. Staats, Dole said that "despite administrative action, the crisis continues to grow.

"Farmers, truckers and other users of middle distillate fuels have been experiencing severe shortages of diesel during past months. This shortfall is threatening agricultural production and halting truck traffic across the country.

"By explaining the causes of recent and current shortages, this GAO study would aid Congress in dealing with future supply problems. The central problem the Congress faces in addressing this problem is the lack of information about the causes of the shortage of diesel and home heating oil. None of the groups most severely affected -- trucking associations, Teamsters, farmers, producers and marketers -- have an explanation of what has happened and suggestions of what can now be done to solve the problem. Information is needed."

Dole requested that the study be completed by the time Congress reconvenes in September. "This would aid Congress in considering prompt action to address crises that may arise later this year and in the future," he said.

Several specific questions would be addressed in the study:

- What are the causes of the present shortages?
- What are heating oil and diesel prospects for this fall and winter?
- What options are available to Congress in addressing these shortages?