

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE RESOLUTION ON NEW LONG TERM GRAIN AGREEMENT

WITH SOVIETS PASSES SENATE

WASHINGTON -- The Senate today unanimously approved Kansas Senator Bob Dole's resolution requiring the President to negotiate a new long term agreement (LTA) on grain trade with the Soviet Union. The Dole Resolution had picked up 54 cosponsors before gaining unanimous consent on the Senate floor.

"The full Senate support today indicates that Congress intends to keep the pressure on for a new LTA so that we can as soon as possible restore agricultural trade with the Soviet Union and profitability to the U.S. farm economy," Dole added. "Even though the Senate vote puts the stamp of congressional approval on President Reagan's offer on April 22 to negotiate a new LTA, there are some critical details yet to be worked-out. I believe any LTA should include higher minimum supply guarantees and value-added or processed products -- this resolution stresses these points."

According to Dole, the inclusion of higher minimum guarantees and processed products in the LTA would help both countries more accurately gauge their production, export and procurement policies and be more responsive to world market conditions.

"I hope -- and the Senate agrees -- that the existing agreement will be expanded to include soybean meal, corn gluten feed, wheat flour and other processed items. These feed and food products earn additional foreign exchange and contribute toward balancing our trade deficit. At the same time, exports of high-value farm products create new jobs in the processing and transportation industries."

Dole congratulated the Reagan Administration for its LTA initiative and expressed hope that the Soviet Union would be equally forthcoming in the effort to reestablish sound agricultural trade relations.

"There is no question that our two countries have considerable differences in many areas, and that some of these differences may be difficult or even impossible to resolve at the present time. It is equally evident, however, that they will become no easier to reconcile if we fail to make progress in bilateral relations in areas where we have mutual and compatible interests. I submit that agricultural trade is one of the most important of these fields," Dole said.