

News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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

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CONTACT: WALT RIKER,  
SCOTT RICHARDSON 202/224-6521

## DOLE, KASSEBAUM AND OTHER SENATORS URGE FARM CREDIT ASSISTANCE

WASHINGTON -- Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole (R-Ks.), Senator Nancy Kassebaum (R-Ks.), and ten other Republican Senators today urged Treasury Secretary Donald Regan to establish a Presidential Task Force to resolve farm credit problems and to expand the Administration's farm debt restructuring initiative announced last September.

Citing the need for quick action, the Senators called for the following steps to be implemented at the time a Presidential Task Force is announced:

1. Allow banks to write down interest rates on farm loans in exchange for federal guarantees on the principal. Regulations currently permit writing down only the loan principal;
2. Assure that adequate loan guarantees will be provided under the President's initiative to cover commercial bank demand. With the interest write-down option, demand for guarantees could exceed the amount made available in September;
3. Approve additional field personnel and equipment to reduce the Farmers Home Administration's caseload backlog.

"We believe the Administration should move swiftly to implement these recommendations. We need to restore the confidence of our farmers and rural communities in the immediate and long-term financial viability of our agricultural sector," said Dole and Kassebaum.

Last year, the Kansas Senators were instrumental in urging the White House to announce a program that authorized the Farmers Home Administration to provide targeted relief to financially strapped farmers.

Also signing the letter to Regan were: Agriculture Committee Chairman Jesse Helms (R-N.C.), Rudy Boschwitz (R-Minn.), Thad Cochran (R-Miss.), Richard G. Lugar (R-Ind.), Charles E. Grassley (R-Iowa), Dave Durenberger (R-Minn.), Bob Kasten (R-Wis.), Don Nickles (R-Okla.), James Abdnor (R-S.Dak.), and Dan Quayle (R-Ind.).