

News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## POSTPONEMENT OF THE WHEAT REFERENDUM

IT IS MY PLEASURE TO BRING UP FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE SENATE A BILL SPONSORED BY THE DISTINGUISHED SENATOR FROM NEBRASKA, SENATOR ZORINSKY, THAT WILL PROVIDE AUTHORITY TO THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE TO POSTPONE THE SCHEDULED PRODUCER REFERENDUM ON THE 1986 WHEAT PROGRAM UNTIL ONE MONTH AFTER THE CLOSE OF THIS SESSION OF THE 99TH CONGRESS.

THIS MEASURE, WHICH IS IDENTICAL TO LEGISLATION PASSED BY THE CONGRESS DURING CONSIDERATION OF THE LAST OMNIBUS FARM BILL IN 1981, WILL ALLOW THAT IMPORTANT PROCESS TO GO FORWARD IN THE HOUSE AND SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEES WITHOUT THE DISTRACTION OF HOLDING A VOTE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN TWO ANTIQUATED FARM PROGRAM ALTERNATIVES. WE SHOULD BE LOOKING FORWARD TO FIND WAYS TO MAKE U.S. AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS MORE COMPETITIVE IN TODAY'S MARKETPLACE -- NOT BACKWARD TO THE RESTRICTIVE POLICIES INCLUDED IN THE 1938 AND 1949 AGRICULTURE ACTS.

I HAVE RECEIVED ASSURANCES FROM AGRICULTURE SECRETARY BLOCK THAT HE IS WILLING TO GIVE FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION TO USING

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THE AUTHORITY PROVIDED BY THIS BILL AND TO CANCEL THE CURRENT PLANS TO HOLD A WHEAT REFERENDUM DURING THE WEEK OF JULY 19. THE SECRETARY RECOGNIZES, AS WE ALL DO, THAT SUCH A PROCEDURE WOULD BE A COSTLY AND CONFUSING DIGRESSION FROM OUR EFFORTS TO CRAFT RESPONSIBLE FARM LEGISLATION THIS YEAR. THOSE OF US ON THE SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH SECRETARY BLOCK ON A BIPARTISAN BASIS TO DESIGN FARM POLICIES THAT RESPOND TO THE ENVIRONMENT AGRICULTURE WILL FACE IN THE EIGHTIES AND BEYOND -- NOT THE 1930'S OR 1940'S.

I COMMEND SENATOR ZORINSKY AND THE DISTINGUISHED CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE, SENATOR HELMS, FOR THEIR LEADERSHIP IN RESPONDING TO THE NEED TO PROVIDE THIS AUTHORITY, AND LOOK FORWARD TO HELPING EXPEDITE THE PROCESS AND OBTAINING THE PRESIDENT'S APPROVAL OF THIS LEGISLATION IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

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