

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas) SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510-1601
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT: WALT RIKER
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DOLE CALLS FOR END OF CONGRESSIONAL ROADBLOCKS TO SECOND CROP RELIEF

WASHINGTON -- SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE (R-KS.) TODAY RENEWED HIS EFFORTS TO ENACT FEDERAL RELIEF FOR DROUGHT-PLAGUED PRODUCERS WHO HAVE BEEN AWAITING RESOLUTION OF THE SO-CALLED "SECOND CROP" PROBLEM.

DOLE MADE HIS COMMENTS TODAY IN THE FOLLOWING SENATE FLOOR STATEMENT:

"MANY FARMERS HAVE HAD A TOUGH YEAR. THE DROUGHT OF 1988 AND 1989 BROUGHT DEVASTATION ACROSS THE COUNTRY, ESPECIALLY TO THE WHEAT BELT.

CONGRESS RESPONDED TO ITS CALL FOR HELP WITH THE PASSAGE OF A DISASTER RELIEF BILL WHICH THE PRESIDENT SIGNED INTO LAW.

UNFORTUNATELY, THAT LEGISLATION CREATED PROBLEMS FOR SOME PRODUCERS -- PROBLEMS FOR THOSE WHO MOVED QUICKLY TO PLANT A NEW CROP ON THEIR DISASTER ACRES.

AS USUAL, THE BIGGEST PROBLEM APPEARS TO BE CONGRESS: FARMERS STILL TRYING TO RECEIVE FAIR COMPENSATION ON THEIR DROUGHT-INDUCED "SECOND CROP" ARE NOW FACING ANOTHER DISASTER, THIS TIME "A POLITICAL FREEZE".

THIS SENATOR HAS MADE REPEATED EFFORTS TO CLEAR NEW LEGISLATION SPONSORED BY SENATOR KASSEBAUM AND I, ALONG WITH A NUMBER OF OTHER SENATORS, THAT WILL DEAL WITH THE SO-CALLED "SECOND CROP" AND "GHOST ACRE" PROBLEMS, BUT EACH TIME WE HAVE BEEN REJECTED. WE CAN'T GET CLEARANCE EVEN THOUGH THE DEMAND FOR ACTION IS URGENT IN KANSAS, SOUTH DAKOTA, TEXAS AND NEW MEXICO.

SENATOR KASSEBAUM AND I HAVE BEEN PUSHING THE ADMINISTRATION AND MY SENATE COLLEAGUES TO SETTLE THE "SECOND CROP" ISSUE EVER SINCE IT BECAME CLEAR FARMERS WHO PLANTED A NEW CROP ON DISASTER ACREAGE WOULD BE UNFAIRLY PENALIZED ON THE RELIEF FRONT.

SENATOR KASSEBAUM AND I HAVE PROPOSED A PACKAGE THAT WOULD NOT REDUCE DISASTER PAYMENTS TO SECOND CROP PRODUCERS IF THEIR REPLACEMENT CROPS FAILED TO PRODUCE MORE THAN 50% OF THE AVERAGE YIELD OF THEIR COUNTY -- CROP YIELD ABOVE THAT THRESHOLD WOULD BE SUBJECT TO A 75% REDUCTION OF THE GROSS VALUE OF THE SECOND CROP.

OUR PACKAGE WILL ALSO INCLUDE A SO-CALLED EQUAL ACRE OFFSET -- THAT MEANS THE DEDUCTION ON THE REPLANTED ACREAGE WOULD ONLY COUNT AGAINST DISASTER PAYMENTS FROM THE SAME ACREAGE, NOT GROSS DISASTER PAYMENTS.

FARMERS HAVE WAITED LONG ENOUGH. THEY ONLY WANT FAIRNESS."

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