

SPEAK



Thursday - July 30

12:00 noon

SDG-50

**National FFA Organization**

National FFA Center  
5632 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway  
P.O. Box 15160  
Alexandria, VA 22309-0160

A National Student Organization  
Chartered by Congress as an  
Integral Part of Instruction in  
Agricultural Education

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March 6, 1992

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The Honorable Bob Dole  
United States Senator  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Dole:

We are making plans for our annual State FFA Presidents' Conference to be held July 27-31, 1992 in Washington DC. The highlights of the week's activities are a Congressional Luncheon and a meeting with the President. The luncheon provides a unique opportunity for our FFA leaders to meet with our nation's leaders. Approximately 100 Congressmen and Senators, 200 top aides, 50 state FFA presidents and 50 vice presidents attend this luncheon annually.

The purpose of writing to you is to ask you to represent congress and address this group for approximately 15 minutes at the Congressional luncheon on Thursday, July 30, 12:00 noon, in the Dirksen Senate Office Building, Room SDG-50. We also hope you will join us in the Rose Garden when we meet with President Bush (tentative).

The Chevrolet Division of General Motors Corporation has sponsored this conference (at \$65,000) for the past several years. The purpose of the conference is to develop leadership, cooperation, and citizenship in our over 380,000 FFA members. Tony Hoyt of our National FFA staff will be in touch with your staff to work out the details.

Your remarks will give great encouragement to our FFA youth and the over 11,000 teachers involved in agricultural education. Thank you, Senator Dole, for the outstanding leadership you are providing to our great nation.

Sincerely,

Lee Thurber  
National FFA President  
1991-1992

3-23-92 Interim ltr.

**COMMENTS BY**  
**SENATOR BOB DOLE**  
**FFA PRESIDENT'S CONFERENCE**  
**THURSDAY, JULY 30**

## **INTRODUCTION**

**THANK YOU. I APPRECIATE  
HAVING THE OPPORTUNITY TO  
ADDRESS YOUR GROUP TODAY --  
A GROUP THAT REPRESENTS  
THE NEXT CLASS OF LEADERS IN  
AMERICAN AGRICULTURE.**

**AS YOU ARE ALL WELL  
AWARE, THERE ARE NUMEROUS**

**CHALLENGES FACING  
AGRICULTURE TODAY --  
CHALLENGES WHICH WILL  
AFFECT EACH AND EVERY ONE  
OF YOU WHO ARE PLANNING  
FOR A FUTURE IN AGRICULTURE.  
I'D LIKE TO TOUCH BRIEFLY ON  
A FEW OF THESE, AND THEN  
TAKE SOME QUESTIONS TO SEE  
WHAT IS ON YOUR MIND.**

## **IMPORTANT TRADE ISSUES**

**AMERICAN AGRICULTURE  
HAS A LOT AT STAKE IN THE  
ONGOING TRADE TALKS -- BOTH  
IN THE GATT AND THE NORTH  
AMERICAN FREE TRADE  
AGREEMENT (NAFTA). I'M  
PERSONALLY NOT TOO  
OPTIMISTIC ABOUT SEEING ANY  
MEANINGFUL AGREEMENT IN**

**THE NEAR FUTURE, WHICH IS  
UNFORTUNATE FOR THAT  
AMERICAN FARMER WHOSE  
BOTTOM LINE DEPENDS MORE  
AND MORE UPON HOW WELL WE  
ARE ABLE TO COMPETE IN THE  
WORLD MARKET. THESE TRADE  
BARRIERS THAT OUR  
COMPETITORS HAVE PUT UP  
STRIP OUR PRODUCERS OF**

**MARKETS IN WHICH WE WOULD  
OTHERWISE DOMINATE.  
AMERICAN KNOW-HOW,  
AMERICAN TECHNOLOGY, AND  
AMERICAN INITIATIVE MAKE US  
THE ENVY OF THE WORLD IN  
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION,  
AND IT'S IN OUR BEST INTEREST  
TO USE THOSE CAPABILITIES TO  
OUR ADVANTAGE.**

## ENVIRONMENT - ISSUE OF THE

90'S

**BUT ON THE HOME FRONT,  
IT SEEMS THAT ALL SECTORS OF  
AGRICULTURE ARE BEING  
BESIEGED ON EVERY SIDE BY  
ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION.  
NOW, I KNOW WE ALL SHARE A  
DEEP COMMITMENT TO THE  
ENVIRONMENT, AND I'VE**



**ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT THE  
FARMER AND RANCHER WERE  
THIS COUNTRY'S PIONEER  
ENVIRONMENTALISTS -- AND  
HAVE BEEN LONG BEFORE IT  
WAS POPULAR. BUT IF YOU  
LOOK AT THE LIST OF LAND-USE  
RESTRICTIONS AND OTHER ONE-  
SIDED INITIATIVES BEING  
PUSHED BY THE**

**"PROFESSIONAL"  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY --  
INCLUDING THE CLEAN WATER  
ACT, PESTICIDE REGULATION,  
WETLANDS REGULATION AND  
THE ENDANGERED SPECIES  
ACT -- YOU START TO GET A  
PICTURE OF HOW MUCH SOME  
IN GOVERNMENT WOULD LIKE  
TO RUN YOUR BUSINESS OR**

**YOUR FARM. ALTHOUGH WE ALL  
MAY SHARE THE SAME  
UNDERLYING CONCERNS ABOUT  
THESE AND OTHER ISSUES, THE  
BOTTOM LINE IS THAT WE NEED  
TO RESTORE SOME BALANCE  
AND SOME COMMON SENSE TO  
THE DEBATE OR WE'LL RISK  
PUTTING A LOT OF GOOD  
PEOPLE AND A LOT OF RURAL**

# **COMMUNITIES OUT OF BUSINESS.**

## **CONCLUSION**

**THERE ARE MANY OTHER  
ISSUES THAT WE COULD  
DISCUSS AT LENGTH, BUT I'D  
LIKE TO TURN IT OVER TO YOU  
NOW FOR QUESTIONS AND  
COMMENTS. IN CLOSING, I MUST**

**ADD THAT IT IS REFRESHING TO  
LOOK OUT AT THIS CROWD AND  
RECOGNIZE THE TREMENDOUS  
TALENT AND LEADERSHIP THAT  
THE FFA PRODUCES, YEAR  
AFTER YEAR. I SALUTE YOUR  
HARD WORK AND YOUR  
COMMITMENT TO AMERICAN  
AGRICULTURE, AND THANK YOU  
FOR HAVING ME HERE TODAY.**