

FROM THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN BOB DOLE  
Room 244, House Office Building  
Washington, D. C.

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Washington, D. C. -- Congressman Bob Dole announced today he has contacted Department of Agriculture officials requesting a change in the regulation requiring persons eligible to vote by absentee ballot in a farm referendum to appear in person for their ballots.

"Under the present regulation, many people having a direct interest in the outcome of a farm referendum are deprived of voting. In many instances it would necessitate long trips and undue expense to call in person at their respective A.S.C.S. offices for their ballots," Dole said.

Dole pointed out that in view of absentee voting rights accorded non-residents by most states in regular elections for state and national offices, the restriction imposed by the Department regulation is inconsistent.

"This requirement is both discriminatory and unfair," he stated. "Many people having a vital interest in the outcome of a referendum thus find themselves deprived of participating in a matter of great importance to them."

The Congressman indicated it is his hope to have the provision changed before the forthcoming referendum in May or June on the 1964 Wheat Program.