

FROM: THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN BOB DOLE
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WASHINGTON, D.C., Sept. 28 -- Congressman Bob Dole late yesterday asked Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman "to confirm that receipts from the sale of U.S. wheat export certificates will be distributed to producers."

In a letter to Freeman, Dole said, "Sales of wheat export certificates could result in net collections by the Department of Agriculture of more than \$100 million by the end of the current crop year June 30."

"The receipts from the sales should be refunded to American wheat growers, as required under existing law," he said.

"Currently, wheat exporters are required to buy certificates costing from 11¢ per bushel for 13% protein hard winter wheat from the Gulf to 25¢ for ordinary premium hard winter wheat from the Gulf."

"A so-called 'inverse' subsidy is necessary because wheat prices have dropped far below the world market level," he said. "In Kansas alone, wheat is bringing an average of only about \$1.15 a bushel so any additional payment would be welcomed by the producers."

Dole asked the Secretary to make a clarifying statement about the distribution of the funds "because of considerable confusion existing among wheat growers."