

FROM: THE OFFICE OF U.S. SEN. BOB DOLE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 12 --- U.S. Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kans.) said he was pleased to learn that a meeting has been scheduled with representatives from farm organizations and Federal Highway Administration officials concerning newly revised driver qualification regulations that prohibit employing persons under 21 from driving farm vehicles.

The meeting announced by the FHA today will be in Washington, April 20, with representatives of nine major farm organizations and FHA Bureau of Motor Carrier Safety officials.

The revisions to be discussed deleted driver regulation exemptions that in past years had permitted 18-year-olds, under certain conditions, to drive light-weight farm vehicles in interstate commerce.

In response to strong farm objection to the revisions, however, elimination of the exemption was suspended until July 1, 1971, to allow interested parties to express their views and the Bureau to reconsider its earlier actions.

Dole wrote Secretary of Transportation John Volpe earlier urging him to extend the July 1 deadline expressing his concern that the elimination of the exemption for young farm truck drivers at this time would cause undue hardship for the Kansas farmer.

A member of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, Dole added that there is no information to indicate that the safety record of young men under 21, driving farm trucks, is poorer than that of older persons.

Dole said he hoped the April 20 meeting would bring about results satisfactory to both the farmer and the FHA Bureau of Motor Carrier Safety.