



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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WASHINGTON, D.C., Jan 17, 1973 -- Senator Bob Dole announced that hearings by the Senate Agriculture and Forestry Committee on recent cutbacks in farm programs are scheduled starting January 31.

Dole said these hearings will particularly consider the termination of the Rural Environmental Assistance Program (REAP), conversion of the REA 2% direct loan program to insured and guaranteed loans and other recent farm program cutbacks. He indicated he will urge legislative action to reinstate these vital programs.

Earlier, Senator Dole wrote President Nixon that farm programs are being "singularly eliminated," in an effort to restrict federal spending.

In his letter to the President, Senator Dole referred to recent changes in REA interest rates, elimination of the REAP, and curtailment of the Emergency Disaster program of Farmers Home Administration.

Dole emphasized how the REAP and REA programs have enabled farmers to maintain the productivity of their land and maintain efficient and comfort on their farms. In reference to the ecological aspects, Dole said, "Since such broad public benefits have been achieved with the assistance of these programs, it is difficult for our Kansas farmers to comprehend why these farm programs are now being singularly eliminated."