



# NEWS from

## U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.-Kans.)

New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 225-6521  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### DOLE FOR DEREGULATION OF NATURAL GAS

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Senator Bob Dole today called for an end to federal controls on natural gas prices as a necessary step toward increasing domestic energy supplies.

In Senate debate on the Federal Energy Administration bill, the Kansas Senator pointed to the net loss of nearly 1.4 billion cubic feet of Kansas natural gas reserves in the past two years as evidence that exploration for new reserves was falling far short of requirements to meet the growing demand.

"Under present law the Federal Power Commission sets artificially low price levels for natural gas sold in interstate commerce. This is some 80% of the gas produced in Kansas. The result," Senator Dole said, "is that natural gas has become an unrealistic bargain that is many times cheaper than thermal equivalents of other fuels such as oil which are dirtier and have less secure sources."

"As the squeeze applied by price regulation and skyrocketing demand has tightened, the trend has been exactly opposite of what our nation requires -- exploration for new gas has declined and the size of our reserves have shrunk.

"Only by making the risk of new exploration commercially acceptable can we hope to expand the supplies of natural gas for consumers and other users. Deregulation is long overdue as a basic measure to meet the energy crisis and help make America self-sufficient in energy."

Senator Dole's comments were made during consideration of the deregulation amendment he co-sponsored with Senator James Buckley (R-N.Y.) and others. The amendment was tabled by a vote of 45-43.



PRESS RELEASE

DOLE  
E Dr - Regulation of Nat'l Gas  
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<u>NICHITA EAGLE TELECO. (316)268-6234</u> <u>LEE EGERSTROM 737-8627</u>	6:05		to Ted Brown