



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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DOLE INTRODUCES AMENDMENTS TO GRAIN INSPECTION BILL

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Senator Bob Dole today stated his opposition to the Grain Inspection bill as reported by the Senate Agriculture and Forestry Committee, and introduced three amendments to modify the bill.

Dole, the leading Republican on the Agriculture Committee, said that while the grain inspection system needs improvement, "provisions of the Committee bill go too far in creating another layer of federal bureaucracy to harass buyers and seller of grain. The committee bill would put many highly regarded state and private inspection agencies -- who have not been implicated in any way during the recent "scandals" or subsequent investigations -- out of business and would also increase the costs of inspection thereby lowering the price farmers receive for their grain."

Dole's amendments would:

- delete provisions that would federalize the 25 major inland grain handling markets
- stop the creation of a special federal agency to supervise the inspection of grain, separately from the inspection of other agriculture commodities
- strike the section providing for registration of all large grain companies and cooperatives.

"All proven cases of malfeasance and resulting indictments have been at major export terminals," Dole pointed out. "There has not been a single indictment at any of the 25 major inland terminals. Increased federal supervision of state and private inspection agencies would provide additional protection at a lower cost and in a more efficient manner than would complete federalization of the system."

The Kansas Senator said an entirely new agency for federal grain inspection would mean needless duplication of services already under the jurisdiction of the Agricultural Marketing Service of the Department of Agriculture. USDA has estimated additional administrative costs for the new agency would be at least \$1.5 million per year.

"The committee bill contains several provisions for enforcement and a separate registration provision for all large grain companies and cooperatives -- at a cost of \$1.6 million -- would unnecessarily duplicate other enforcement procedures," Dole said. "With these amendments," he emphasized, "the bill would still provide extensive reform to prevent future violations such as we saw last year at Gulf ports