



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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DOLE TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF NATION'S FARMERS

Senator Bob Dole announced today that he will testify before the Senate Public Works Committee on Tuesday, July 27, to protest expanded control over waters and wetlands by the Army Corps of Engineers. Under Court order, the Corps of Engineers is now scheduled to expand its permit program over dredging and filling activities on September 1, 1976.

"There is no excuse for Congress to sit idly by while the Courts and the Corps 'legislate' our environmental protection laws," Dole said. "It is the responsibility of Congress to clarify the limits of the Water Pollution Control Act before federal bureaucrats start requiring farmers and contractors to get permits for routine daily activities."

A 1975 District Court decision held that Section 404 of the federal Water Pollution Control Act requires the Corps of Engineers to regulate a variety of minor "dredging" and "filling" activities on virtually "all waters of the United States," including ponds, lakes, streams, and adjacent wetlands.

According to Dole and many of his Senate colleagues, most "normal" farming, forestry, and construction activities should be specifically exempted by law from the permit requirement unless they significantly obstruct navigation or pollute major waters.

"It's impractical and harrassing to require farmers to go through an elaborate system of federal red tape to dredge for irrigation supply or construct erosion prevention devices," Dole said. "Furthermore, if regulation of small waters is necessary, it should be handled at the State or local levels, where officials understand local conditions and needs."

Dole will support corrective Senate legislation to limit the Section 404 permit program before it is expanded this Fall. More than thirty United States Senators recently wrote to the President to protest the expanded permit regulations and to request a delay in the Corps regulations.