



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DOLE URGES PRESIDENT TO SIGN SBA DISASTER LOANS SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION BILL

WASHINGTON, D.C.....Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan) today urged President Carter to sign House Joint Resolution 873 which provides supplemental appropriations to the Small Business Administration of \$758 million to fund disaster loans.

In a telegram to President Carter Senator Dole said, "I urge you to sign H.J. Res. 873 as soon as possible. Farmers from across the nation have been calling my office the last few days to report the S.B.A. is out of disaster loan funds and farm loans are being held up until more funds are appropriated."

"Farmers are planting their crops and disaster loan money is needed now. Many of the farmers have stated they need loans this week to make land payments and to buy needed seed and fertilizer," Dole said in the telegram.

"The law gives you until midnight Friday, May 26, to sign the bill. I urge you to sign it today so loan funds can be made available to farmers immediately," Dole told the President.

Senator Dole said the Small Business Administration make disaster loans to farmers and small businessman who have suffered losses due to natural disasters. There has been an unusually large number of disasters this past year and farmers were only declared eligible for disaster loans one year ago.

Congress was not able to anticipate the unusually large demand for these disaster loans and has had to give the SBA supplemental loans. The additional \$758 million should fund SBA until October 1 when the fiscal year 1979 appropriations become available.

Senator Dole said there are some problems with Federal disaster loan, grant and insurance programs. "The Congress and the Administration is working on these problems and hopefully new legislation will be passed this year. Until that is done farmers who qualify for loans under the present legislation should be able to get their loans," Dole said.

"The Congress has acted to provide more loans funds. It is now up to the President to act," Dole said.