



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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DOLE SUPPORTS CONTINUED GASOHOL DEVELOPMENT

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) today reiterated his support of continued research into the feasibility of using "gasohol," a grain alcohol and gasoline mixture, as an alternative to conventional fossil fuels. He made the remarks at a meeting of the National Gasohol Commission.

Dole said that although a practical method of producing gasohol or other grain-based petroleum substitutes hasn't been achieved, largely because of the economic difficulties involved, he would back extensive research into the use of "agricultural commodities capable of assisting in developing our independence from imported oil and other fossil fuels."

An amendment to the Food and Agriculture Act of 1977 that was co-authored by Dole established a pilot program for in-depth studies of gasohol. The program provides for four \$15 million guaranteed loans to businesses and individuals for independent development of fuel substitutes using agricultural commodities.

"The Department of Agriculture is just now implementing those provisions, and a great deal of interest has been shown by researchers who want to participate in the program," Dole said.

He said that there were primarily two reasons for establishing the program:

"Up to now it has been uneconomical to produce gasohol because the calories used to make the alcohol exceeded the amount of calories produced by the finished product. It also takes fossil fuels to produce the alcohol.

"Additionally, the price controls on oil that are currently in effect have tended to discourage development of alternative sources to the relatively inexpensive fuel now available.

"The rural benefits from development of gasohol would be great. There would be an increased demand for agricultural products and a corresponding increase in prices."