

# News from Senator BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

2213 Dirksen Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

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CONTACT: BILL KATS  
(202) 224-6521

## DOLE SAYS HE WILL CHALLENGE OIL COMPANIES' REFUSAL TO EXTEND CREDIT FOR GASOLIN PURCHASES

WASHINGTON -- Labelling moves this week by several major oil companies to prohibit the use of their credit cards for the purchase of gasoline as "efforts to make gasoline non-competitive," Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan.) said today he would seek legislation to amend antitrust laws to forbid such practices unless the companies reverse their decision.

"At this time of energy and international crisis it shocks me to learn that several large oil companies are refusing to allow purchases of gasoline with their credit cards," Dole said. "These corporations allow the purchase of tires, batteries and other accessories, but only gasoline has been singled out for discrimination. The American farmer and consumer will be the ultimate losers unless this anti-competitive practice is changed.

"As the ranking Republican on the Senate Finance Committee, I listened to months of testimony by the oil companies during the windfall profits tax debate arguing against the tax on the grounds of pledging their good faith and all-out efforts to develop alternative energy sources -- sources such as gasoline.

"Yet the recent reports that certain oil companies will not extend credit to purchasers of gasoline demonstrates their lack of good faith in selling this alternative fuel and helping the nation reduce our dependence on imported oil. This anti-gasoline policy is particularly disturbing in light of President Carter's recent decision to embargo U.S. grain to the Soviet Union. Farmers will be devastated by this embargo unless the surplus grain can be used for alternative means such as the production of gasoline. Clearly, the demand for gasoline will be lessened if the oil companies discourage the sale of that fuel by credit card.

"I support the farmer and the consumer in this struggle for energy independence. Gasoline is an excellent alternative to reducing our energy dependence on OPEC. For these reasons, I want to put the oil companies on notice that if their discriminatory policies regarding the sale of gasoline are not reversed I will introduce legislation when the Senate reconvenes on January 22 that will amend the antitrust laws to prohibit oil companies from denying the use of credit cards to those who wish to purchase gasoline at their franchises."