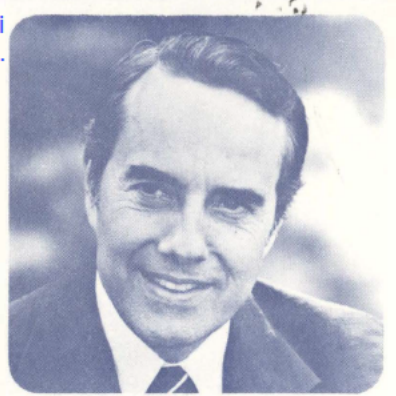


News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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BILL WOULD STOP MAJOR OIL COMPANIES FROM INTERFERING WITH GASOHOL SALES

WASHINGTON-- Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas) today spoke out in favor of legislation designed to prevent large oil companies from hindering the retail sale of gasohol.

Saying that "no effort to further the use of gasohol can succeed if the consumer encounters barriers to purchasing the product in the marketplace," Senator Dole spoke in favor of passage of S. 2251, The Gasohol Competition Bill, before a vote today in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Dole stated that evidence has recently surfaced suggesting that some major oil companies have tried to interfere with the sale of gasohol by their franchised service stations.

"Some of these actions are violatio of existing law," said Dole. "But other cases are less clear. For example, oil companies have prohibited some of their dealers from dispensing gasohol from company-owned pumps and tanks, despite clear labeling by the dealers telling customers that they aren't buying a company product. The practical effect of such a limitation, of course, is to preclude the sale of gasohol at that station," said Dole.

Credit Cards

"A more widely publicized example was the announcement a few months ago by Exxon and other major companies that their credit cards could not be used to buy gasohol at their franchised stations. Although such a policy does not prevent the sale of gasohol, it obviously significantly discourages purchases, since most people can no longer carry around the large amount of cash on needs to 'fill her up'", said Dole.

"While those restrictive credit card policies were later rescinded in the heat of national publicity, much of it generated here, we must now act to insure that similar maneuvers aren't tried again. I have been fighting since 1972 for gasohol and S.2251 is an important part of that fight."