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FUELS COMMISSION URGES PRESIDENT TO INCREASE FEDERAL ALCOHOL USE

WASHINGTON -- Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas) and other congressional members of the U.S. National Alcohol Fuels Commission (NAFC) urged President Jimmy Carter today to "take whatever steps necessary to increase the use of gasohol in federal motor vehicles."

Senator Dole joined with nine other congressional members in a three-page letter expressing their concern over the lack of progress in efforts to utilize gasohol.

Although the recently signed Energy Security Act required the President to issue an Executive Order mandating gasohol use in federal vehicles, the NAFC pointed out that current federal procurement laws need clarification before that order can be implemented successfully.

The federal government purchased over 340 million gallons of gasoline in 1979 but only 13 million gallons -- four percent -- was gasohol.

"It is clear to us," the letter stated, "that the federal government can and should implement its authority on both price guarantees and purchase agreements to provide the tools needed to purchase gasohol for the federal fleet. We are concerned that the federal government needs to ensure a continued market for gasohol."

The National Fuels Commission is currently examining the potential contribution that all alcohol fuels -- from coal as well as biomass -- can make to our overall energy needs. The Commission will report its findings and recommendations to the President and the Congress later this year.