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ROYALTY RELIEF ASSURED BY CONGRESSIONAL PASSAGE OF DOLE AMENDMENT

WASHINGTON -- The Congress today ensured that royalty owners will receive relief from the windfall profit tax, when the House and Senate passed a Dole amendment providing a tax refund for royalty owners equal to the first \$1,000 of windfall profit tax liability in calendar year 1980. The amendment was part of the budget reconciliation bill.

"Due to the efforts of many in the Congress who recognized the unusual burden being placed on oil royalty owners by the windfall profit tax, we have been able to provide some relief," Dole said. "In taxing royalty owners at the same rate as major oil companies, the windfall tax works an unconscionable hardship on royalty owners.

"Approximately 120,000 royalty owners in Kansas and more than two million nationwide stand to benefit from the passage of this legislation. The majority of these are retired persons who depend on their royalty checks to supplement Social Security payments, and farmers, who are hard-pressed by low farm prices and high interest rates.

"Ultimately, some form of permanent relief for royalty owners and small independent producers is necessary. Something close to my bill to exempt up to 10 barrels a day of royalty interest and 10 barrels for independent producers should be enacted."