

BOB DOLE



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DOLE ON EPA RULING ON EDB TOLERANCES FOR GRAIN

WASHINGTON -- Kansas Senator Bob Dole today expressed satisfaction with the Environmental Protection Agency's ruling on the maximum allowable residual levels of ethylene dibromide (EDB) in grain and grain-based products as "a sound judgement that balances our concern for public health with the need to ensure a healthy agriculture and food chain."

Dole made the remarks following an announcement by EPA Administrator William Ruckelshaus of an emergency suspension order prohibiting the use of EDB as a fumigant for stored grain or a spot fumigant for milling machinery.

"Several weeks ago, I also requested the Department of Grain Science and Industry at Kansas State University to review EDB usage in Kansas," Dole added. "Their survey showed that less than 4.7% of the 1983 Kansas wheat crop should have been treated with EDB. I want to make clear to our foreign buyers who have expressed concern over the EDB issue that Kansas wheat, and U.S. wheat in general, poses no measurable threat to the health of their citizens -- or ours."

"The EPA's timely decision to set national standards for EDB, and to prohibit the future use of this dangerous chemical in grain storage and processing, will hopefully reassure both American consumers and foreign customers of the wholesomeness and quality of our grain and grain-based products," Dole said. "This is a development we will monitor very closely."

"I want to particularly emphasize that the EPA tolerance on raw grain means practically no problem for U.S. wheat and corn producers," Dole stated. "Even grain recently treated can be brought into compliance through proper aeration, rotation, and blending with unaffected grain."

One survey showed only four out of 605 samples of wheat with more than 990 ppb, less than 1%, and only about 4% of corn sampled exceeded the new standard.