

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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FORECAST CALLS FOR DEMOCRATIC FREEZE ON FARM BILL IN CONFERENCE

WASHINGTON -- Kansas Senator Bob Dole said today that some House Democrats will stall much needed 1984-85 wheat program improvements by demanding a conference committee session on the Senate-passed farm bill. Dole said President Reagan is ready to sign the package right now; every major farm group supports the improvements; and that American farmers want action, not a stall job by House Democrats.

"As farmers in Kansas and other states know, the Congress has been working -- or not working -- on legislation to improve the 1984 wheat program and all the 1985 commodity programs for over a year. The Senate passed a bill last week that is supported by every major farm group, and which President Reagan will sign as s as it reaches his desk," Dole said.

"Unfortunately, a handful of Democratic members of the House Agriculture Committee are dragging out the process by requiring a conference over differences between the Senate bill and the so-called Foley wheat bill that passed the House last November. Rather than responding to the immediate needs of wheat farmers and ranchers to know what this year's program will be, some Congressmen are more concerned with turning the bill into a Christmas tree by adding their favorite amendments," Dole added.

"Even if the Senate bill is approved, it will take another week to get it approved by the House. With a new wheat sign-up required for 1984, we will be lucky to complete the process before they start cutting wheat in Texas in May. Farmers deserve action, not more delays by their elected representatives," Dole concluded.