

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DOLE HELPS PASS DROUGHT RELIEF BILL

WASHINGTON -- FOLLOWING PASSAGE OF A DROUGHT RELIEF BILL THURSDAY, SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE SAID THAT THE SENATE "CAN'T MAKE IT RAIN, BUT TODAY WE DID THE NEXT BEST THING BY PASSING A COMMON SENSE, COMPASSIONATE DROUGHT RELIEF PACKAGE. THE DROUGHT HAS BEEN A CATASTROPHE THAT AFFECTS NOT ONLY FARMERS, BUT ALSO RURAL AMERICA ALL THE WAY FROM MAIN STREET TO THE FAMILY FARM."

"THAT'S WHY THIS RELIEF BILL DEMANDED BIPARTISAN ACTION; AND THAT'S WHAT WE GOT TODAY," DOLE SAID. "IT IS A COMPREHENSIVE AND RESPONSIBLE PACKAGE, TARGETED TO THOSE WHO NEED HELP THE MOST, WITHOUT OPENING THE BARN DOORS FOR A WINDFALL FOR ANY GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL."

AS A KEY MEMBER OF THE SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE, AND AS REPUBLICAN LEADER, DOLE HELPED KEEP THE BILL FREE OF EXPENSIVE AND EXTRANEIOUS AMENDMENTS. "WE DIDN'T BREAK THE BANK. BUT WE ALSO DIDN'T BREAK THE SPIRITS OF OUR DROUGHT-RACKED FARMERS WHO WERE ASKING FOR HELP, NOT POLITICS," DOLE SAID.

DOLE ALSO SAID HE WAS PLEASED THAT THE DROUGHT BILL DID NOT BECOME AN EXCUSE TO TEAR OPEN THE 1985 FARM BILL WHICH HAS PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN REVITALIZING RURAL AMERICA.

"IN KANSAS, WE WERE QUITE FORTUNATE. WE HAD A GOOD WHEAT CROP, AND WE HAVE HAD SOME GOOD RAIN RECENTLY. THE SOYBEANS ARE IN PRETTY GOOD SHAPE. BUT WE DO HAVE SOME CORN THAT IS IN PRETTY BAD SHAPE, BUT NOT NEARLY AS BAD AS SOME OTHER STATES," DOLE SAID.

"NEVERTHELESS, THIS BILL IS A NECESSARY AND POSITIVE STEP TOWARDS ENSURING THE FINANCIAL SURVIVAL OF THOUSANDS OF FARMERS ACROSS AMERICA'S FARM BELT, INCLUDING KANSAS."

"I CERTAINLY CONGRATULATE MY COLLEAGUES ON THE COMMITTEE. AT THE OUTSET, IT WAS AGREED THAT THIS WAS GOING TO BE A BIPARTISAN EFFORT. I THINK WE CAN STAND HERE TODAY AND SAY IT HAS BEEN," DOLE CONCLUDED.

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