

News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## DOLE, KASSEBAUM SUCCESSFULLY PUSH EPA TO HELP KANSAS CORNGROWERS

WASHINGTON - FOLLOWING A REQUEST BY SENATORS BOB DOLE (R-KS) AND NANCY KASSEBAUM (R-KS), THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY HAS ANNOUNCED THAT CORN FARMERS IN KANSAS WILL BE GRANTED AN EXTENSION OF A CRISIS EXEMPTION FOR THE USE OF "CAPTURE" PESTICIDE. CAPTURE HAS BEEN USED UNTIL RECENTLY TO COMBAT A GROWING INFESTATION OF SPIDER MITES PREDOMINANTLY IN SOUTHWESTERN KANSAS, WHERE THE OUTBREAK IS ONE OF THE WORST IN THE PAST 15 YEARS.

"I'M PLEASED THAT THE EPA HAS AGREED WITH US THAT KANSAS FARMERS SHOULD HAVE THE AMMUNITION THEY NEED TO FIGHT THIS INFESTATION," DOLE SAID. "DUE TO WEATHER CONDITIONS AND OTHER FACTORS, PRELIMINARY APPLICATIONS DID NOT STEM THE INFESTATION AND EPA'S DENIAL FORCED KANSAS CORN FARMERS TO CONSIDER OTHER CONTROL OPTIONS WHICH ARE MORE COSTLY, LESS EFFECTIVE, AND MORE HAZARDOUS TO THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE HEALTH OF THE APPLICATOR."

THE PLANT HEALTH DIVISION OF THE KANSAS STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE HAD DECLARED A CRISIS CONDITION AND ALLOWED THE USE OF CAPTURE SEVERAL WEEKS AGO. THE EPA SUBSEQUENTLY DENIED ITS USE, STATING THERE WAS NOT SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE OF AN EMERGENCY SITUATION.

DOLE AND KASSEBAUM LAST WEEK PRESENTED THE CONCERNS OF KANSAS FARMERS ABOUT RAPIDLY DETERIORATING CONDITIONS TO THE DIRECTOR AND STAFF OF THE OFFICE OF PESTICIDE PROGRAMS, WHO AGREED THAT THE SITUATION WAS INDEED AN EMERGENCY.

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