

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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16 AG COMMITTEE MEMBERS URGE CARTER TO "KEEP U.S. FARM EXPORTS MOVING"

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Sixteen members of the Senate Agriculture Committee have signed a letter authored by Senator Bob Dole, urging President Carter "to use your good offices and all appropriate measures at your disposal to keep U.S. farm exports moving" during the current work stoppage by the International Longshoremen's Association.

Following is the text of the letter signed by Senators Dole, Herman Talmadge, James Eastland, George McGovern, James Allen, Milton Young, Jesse Helms, Pat Leahy, Henry Bellmon, S.I. Hayakawa, Carl Curtis, Richard Lugar, John Melcher, Dick Clark, Ed Zorinsky and Dick Stone:

We, the undersigned members of the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, are greatly concerned over the impact on farm exports of the work stoppage by members of the International Longshoremen's Association in the New Orleans port complex.

About two-thirds of all U.S. grain exports flow through Gulf Coast ports and about one-half of this volume is loaded through the New Orleans port complex. As the strike goes into its third week, we understand that over 1,000 barges carrying export grain are in the New Orleans port complex with loads which they cannot discharge. The loading of up-river barges is being slowed down because of the stoppage in New Orleans, resulting in marketing and storage problems all the way back to the farm level.

We would like to see the strike ended against all cargoes, but we are especially interested in keeping open the flow of exports of farm commodities and products because of the adverse effect that the interruption of their flow will have on farm prices, grain storage problems, and the U.S. balance of traded.

Mr. President, we urge you to use your good offices and all appropriate measures at your disposal to keep U.S. farm exports moving.

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