



# NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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## PRESIDENT'S GAS RATIONING PLAN GIVES NO ASSURANCE FOR AGRICULTURAL SAFETY, DOLE SAYS

WASHINGTON -- Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) today voted to reject President Carter's standby gasoline rationing plan on the grounds that it provided insufficient guarantees that agricultural areas would get the fuel they need to operate both on- and off-farm vehicles during times of emergency.

On May 2, 1979, Dole, along with numerous colleagues, sent a letter to the President expressing grave concern about the effect that the Administration's proposals would have on rural America. On May 8, a similar letter was sent to Senate Energy Committee Chairman Henry Jackson expressing the same concerns.

"Today," Dole said, "just four minutes before the scheduled vote on the the President's latest plan was to occur, the President's response to our concerns was received. The answers given, however, were really no answers at all. The only commitment the President would make regarding the serious reservations of a number of senators was to promise that his Administration would 'study this matter.'

"As it now stands, the gasoline rationing plan does not give agriculture full priority as has been done in the past since World War II with any type of energy conservation or allocation legislation. Farmers will not be given any priority allocation for their on-highway vehicles, such as trucks, that are predominately used for farm business purposes.

"I was pleased that the Senate adopted a resolution sponsored by myself, along with Sens. Stevens and Wallop, setting limits for instituting rationing. Under the resolution's terms, rationing would not result unless a national energy supply shortage has resulted or is likely to result in a loss to the United States of more than 20 percent of our supply of petroleum for more than 30 days. Under this plan, we can be assured that spot shortages will not trigger rationing.

"But my main concerns lie in what will happen to agriculture if rationing is enacted. This proposal is yet another example of the disregard that the President has for the agricultural community."