

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE ASKS AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT TO CLARIFY GASOHOL STAND

WASHINGTON-- Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas), a leading advocate of gasohol production, said today he would like the U.S. Department of Agriculture "to speak clearly on the subject and let the farmer and the distiller know whether or not they can expect support in developing this new energy source."

Dole noted that Deputy Agriculture Secretary Jim Williams said yesterday that the Department would make idled cropland available for growing crops to be converted into gasohol.

"Yet on May 4, Agriculture Secretary Bob Bergland told a House Committee that use of crops for gasohol was not practical," said Dole. "I think the Department owes it to farmers and the agricultural community to speak with one voice, rather than send out conflicting signals."

Dole pointed out that the Emergency Agriculture Act of 1978, which he sponsored as a senior member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, already authorizes planting of crops on idled acreage for use in manufacturing alcohol.

"I would suggest that the Department make full use of that authority," said Dole.

Gasohol is a mix of 10 percent alcohol and 90 percent gasoline. It is already available in Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska and Illinois, as well as some non-farm states.