

News from Senator

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DOLE, STANGELAND CALL FOR NORTH AMERICAN ENERGY SUMMIT

WASHINGTON -- Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.), along with Rep. Arlan Stangeland (R-Minn.), today announced that they will be introducing a joint resolution next week calling for a North American energy summit for the purpose of meeting common energy goals and promoting a continental energy policy.

"Perhaps more than any other issue, this nation's current energy problems point to the need for international cooperation," Dole said.

"A comprehensive national energy policy should include close cooperation with Mexico and Canada. It should be a policy based on mutual respect, not intimidation. It should be a policy based on trust, not threats.

"The Dole-Stangeland Joint Resolution would bring together the leaders of the United States, Mexico and Canada to discuss a framework for energy cooperation. These three countries all have abundant energy resources. The United States has oil and gas reserves plus huge deposits of coal, oil shale and geothermal energy. Mexico is rapidly developing its new oil resources and currently 85 percent of oil exports goes to the United States. Canada has reserves of oil and gas. The United States is a leader in energy technology, management and finance.

"America has had a tradition of cooperation between our closest neighbors. Now, with the energy crisis upon us, it is more important than ever to pull together on issues of mutual concern.

"The 1973 OPEC embargo signaled the end of inexpensive and abundant energy. Since then, we have made little progress in escaping the grip of our dependence on foreign petroleum. Last year, oil imports made up 47 percent of our domestic consumption, with 41.5 percent of those imports coming from the politically unstable Middle East and 83 percent of the imports coming from the OPEC cartel.

"What Rep. Stangeland and I are hoping will be realized is a rational, orderly procedure for managing our hemispheric energy resources."