

News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



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## EASING FUEL ALCOHOL REGULATIONS SHOULD MAKE GASOHOL PRODUCTION SIMPLER, DOLE SAYS

WASHINGTON -- Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.), along with Sen. Birch Bayh (D-Ind.), today introduced a bill that, if passed, would increase production of alcohol used for fuels, thus increasing the likelihood for gasohol production.

The bill, the Alcohol Fuels Regulatory Simplification Act of 1979, would give the secretary of the treasury the authority to waive or change regulations now in effect which serve as obstacles to persons or groups interested in producing alcohol to meet their own energy needs, or for sale to others for use as an alternative energy source.

The 1978 Energy Tax bill mandated that the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms was to send legislation to Congress recommending changes in current ATF regulations on alcohol if the alcohol was produced for energy purposes.

The purpose of the legislation is to give the secretary of the treasury the authority to waive regulations regarding the establishment of stills to produce alcohol for use as energy.

"At the current time, no consideration has been given to special circumstances surrounding gasohol production," Dole said. "An individual who wants to engage in on-farm production of alcohol for his or her own use as fuel must comply with the same regulations as a large company which produces mass quantities of alcohol for beverage use. Prior to the advent of gasohol as a motor fuel, few alcohol producers other than large industries producing distilled spirits existed. Now the situation has changed and our regulatory requirements must do the same."

The secretary would not have the power to alter the current excise tax exemption for denatured distilled alcohol. The bill requires that alcohol used for fuel purposes, by having substances added to it that will not impair the substance for use in fuel, be rendered unfit for beverage use so as to protect the revenue base of those distilleries producing alcohol for human consumption.