

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE INTRODUCES RESOLUTION CALLING FOR NATIONAL ENERGY COUNCIL

WASHINGTON-- Saying that "the American people need reassurance that they are being told the truth about the energy situation," Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas) today introduced a concurrent resolution stating the sense of the Congress that the President should establish a National Energy Council. Congressman Arlan Stangeland (R.-Minn.) introduced the resolution in the House.

"The crux of the problem is credibility," said Dole. "No one believes what the government is telling them, no one believes what the oil companies are telling them, and this Senator can't blame them for feeling apprehensive, frustrated and confused."

According to Dole, "Before the American people will go along with a national energy policy they must feel that they are being dealt with openly and honestly. Quite frankly, that is not the case today. We are a nation divided. Even the President's own Party in Congress is deeply split on the question of decontrol of oil. Today the Democratic Caucus in the House voted 138-69 against the President's own decontrol plan-- and the President has hinted that he will not veto that action if a bill were to be passed with such a provision.

"Is it any wonder that the American people are confused? The current situation cries for relief," said Dole.

Establishing the Council

"For that reason I have introduced a concurrent resolution stating the sense of the Congress that the President establish a National Energy Council. This National Energy Council would be charged with the dual responsibilities of restoring credibility to energy data and forecasting and, secondly, publishing an annual energy audit which would inform the nation where we are, where we are going, and what we as a nation have accomplished in achieving energy independence," said Dole.

"The Council would be chaired by the Vice President and be comprised of 15 members selected from outside government. The President should call on the most able leaders from the private sector whom the public holds in high esteem, to join in the important task of restoring credibility and forming a new consensus on our energy situation. The membership of the Council must reflect a cross-section of views and philosophies, drawing on leaders of consumer groups, environmental groups, academic and research organizations, labor and the energy industry," said Dole.

"We must restore a measure of confidence in the ability of our government to provide facts, to tell the whole truth about the energy situation. Sadly, this is not the case today. We must act soon to create a mechanism that will help restore confidence-- or be prepared for the consequences," said Dole.