

## News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



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### DOLE DEMANDS ACTION ON STALLED GRAIN ELEVATOR BANKRUPTCY BILL -- WRITES HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

WASHINGTON -- Kansas Senator Bob Dole has sent a letter to House Judiciary Committee Chairman Peter Rodino (D-NJ) and other Committee members urging immediate approval of legislation that would remedy the problems farmers face when their grain becomes locked-up in protracted grain elevator bankruptcy proceedings.

Senator Dole, as Chairman of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Courts, and senior Republican on the Agriculture Committee, has been the prime mover of similar legislation in the Senate. The Senate has unanimously passed Dole's grain elevator bankruptcy reform legislation five times since the spring of 1981. However, each time the bill has been stalled in the House Judiciary Committee, where there is apparently little interest in solving this important problem for the American farmer.

Following is the text of Senator Dole's letter to Rep. Rodino:

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In April of 1981, you gave this Senator solemn assurance, orally and in writing, that your Committee would expeditiously mark up, and send to the House floor, legislation to remedy problems in the bankruptcy laws that have made it difficult for farmers to obtain rapid recovery of grain that is stored in a bankrupt grain elevator.

In that period of time, the Senate has -- no less than five times -- approved this non-controversial bill by unanimous consent and expectantly awaited House action. On each occasion, the Senate expectation has been met by a wall of silence from your Committee.

I take this opportunity to urge that your Committee quickly approve the latest, consensus version of the legislation -- sponsored by Representatives Bill Emerson of Missouri and Mike Synar of Oklahoma -- and send it to the House floor where I am confident it will be quickly approved.

If action on the bill is not forthcoming, you may rest assured that I will utilize each and every bill passed out of your Committee and forwarded to the Senate for action as a vehicle for the attachment of the amendments to bankruptcy law that the farmers of this nation desperately want and need.

The Dole bill 1) would establish a mandatory court timetable of 110 days to settle elevator disputes; 2) place farmers in a priority position in the line of creditors receiving elevator assets; and 3) protect the farmer's right of ownership of grain locked-up in bankruptcy proceedings.

"Kansans have every right to feel frustrated and angry over the continued inability of the House Judiciary Committee to do anything at all on behalf of farmers and grain elevator bankruptcy reform," Dole said. "Concerned Kansans should write their elected Representative and members of the House Judiciary Committee to demand action."