

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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DOLE INTRODUCES ETHANOL BILLS

WASHINGTON -- Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole (R-KS) today introduced two bills designed to close loopholes that are currently allowing ethanol imports to evade U.S. tariffs.

The legislation is needed to assure the stability and expansion of the domestic ethanol program, which provides jobs, utilizes abundant natural resources and contributes to U.S. energy independence.

"As a long-time supporter of the ethanol program, I am gratified that the effort to promote U.S. production has been successful," Dole said. "Unfortunately, foreign producers are exploiting loopholes in current law and now threaten the progress made by the domestic ethanol industry."

The bills introduced today close loopholes in the Tariff Schedules of the United States and require enforcement of existing law.

One bill would address imports of ethanol containing gasoline additives, which do not fall within the 60-cent tariff, as interpreted by the Customs Service. The legislation extends the definition of ethanol imported for fuel use to include mixtures, and requires payment of duties immediately.

The second bill would overturn a Customs Service ruling allowing Spanish ethanol to be shipped to a Caribbean country, and then shipped duty-free to the United States.

"With approval of this legislation," Dole said, "Congress can restore the integrity of the government's domestic ethanol program and continue our commitment to energy independence."