

News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



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## DOLE BILL POSTPONES JULY WHEAT REFERENDUM

WASHINGTON -- A "costly and confusing" vote by the nation's wheat farmers on an outmoded wheat program has been postponed by Senate legislation introduced by Kansas Senator Bob Dole.

The measure, passed by voice vote, delays the scheduled "Wheat Referendum" until one month after the close of the 1985 session of the 99th Congress. "The wheat referendum is costly and confusing and is frankly a waste of time," Dole said. The Senate Majority Leader indicated U.S. Agriculture Secretary John Block would follow the direction of the Dole bill and cancel the July referendum.

The Reagan Administration had planned the national vote in July in an effort to force action on farm legislation, but Dole and other critics said the referendum would be detrimental to efforts now underway to fashion a new farm bill. Dole said the Administration would be better off revising its own farm bill plan which has attracted no support on Capitol Hill.

"The Agriculture Committees in the House and Senate can now continue their work without the distraction of a useless vote to choose between two antiquated farm program alternatives. We should be looking forward to finding ways to make U.S. agricultural exports more competitive, not backward to policies set down in the 1930's," Dole said.