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## EFP FUNDING

### DOLE INTRODUCES RESOLUTION TO BOOST EFP FUNDING; PROGRAM RUNNING OUT OF FUNDS: 85% ALREADY GONE

WASHINGTON -- SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE (R-KANSAS) TODAY INTRODUCED A SENATE RESOLUTION CALLING FOR IMMEDIATE CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION'S REQUEST TO REMOVE THE SPENDING CAP ON THE EXPORT ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (EFP), AS THE CRITICAL TRADE PROGRAM IS RUNNING OUT OF FUNDS IN THE FACE OF STIFF FOREIGN COMPETITION.

"THE EXPORT ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM HAS MADE AMERICA A PLAYER AGAIN IN THE INTERNATIONAL MARKETPLACE. THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY IS BUSTING THE BANK TO SUBSIDIZE ITS AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS. IF WE DON'T PLAY TO WIN, AMERICA WILL BE BLOWN OFF THE PLAYING FIELD -- OUR FARMERS DESERVE BETTER," DOLE SAID. "LET'S NOT DISARM WHILE THE COMPETITION RELOADS."

THE EFP, WHICH SENATOR DOLE MADE AN ESSENTIAL COMPONENT OF THE 1985 FARM BILL, TARGETS AGRICULTURAL MARKETS IN WHICH THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY HAS ENGAGED IN UNFAIR TRADING PRACTICES.

IN DRAFTING THE 1990 FARM BILL LAST YEAR, CONGRESS PLACED A SPENDING CAP OF \$425 MILLION ON THE PROGRAM IN AN EFFORT TO MEET DEFICIT-REDUCTION GUIDELINES. BECAUSE OF A WORLD-WIDE SUPPLY GLUT THIS YEAR, ESPECIALLY IN WHEAT, DEPRESSED MARKET PRICES HAVE CAUSED EXPORT BONUSES PAID OUT UNDER THE EFP PROGRAM TO BE ESPECIALLY HIGH. THE USDA HAS REPORTEDLY PAID OUT APPROXIMATELY 85% OF THE PROGRAM'S FUNDING IN THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF THE FISCAL YEAR.

DOLE'S RESOLUTION CALLS FOR THE SENATE TO ACT IMMEDIATELY UPON THE ADMINISTRATION'S SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST. IF THE APPROPRIATION PROCESS STALLS, THE RESOLUTION DIRECTS BOTH THE HOUSE AND THE SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEES TO ENACT SEPARATE LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE FOR ONGOING FUNDING OF THE EFP.

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