

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, August 4, 1993

CONTACT: CLARKSON HINE
(202) 224-5358

DOLE SUPPORTS PROPOSAL TO INCREASE DISASTER FUNDS TO FARMERS

WASHINGTON - Kansas Senator Bob Dole says farmers affected by flood and other extreme weather conditions this year should receive additional disaster funds and strongly supported a proposal that was agreed to by the U.S. Senate and included in the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations bill. The amendment approved today would increase disaster dollars available to farmers to 100% of the disaster formula that determines the payment amount, up from the previous figure of 50.04%. The amendment also deletes the current provision that any damage occurring after August 1, 1993, would not be covered by the disaster relief bill.

Following are excerpts from Senator Dole's statement:

Some have called this a disaster. But once you see it, you know it's more than that, it's a catastrophe. In Kansas, over 25 percent of the crop has been destroyed by some type of disaster. High straight winds, tornadoes, hail and floods have equated to more than a \$437 million shortfall in the pockets of Kansas farmers. Over 53,000 of the state's 67,000 farmers have been affected.

It is my intent that the Senate respond to the needs of the victims in a bipartisan manner. But the politics of the past is playing into this effort. In 1991, the Office of Management and Budget decided to pro rate the disaster dollars available to farmers at 50.04%. This was the first time Congress capped an entitlement program. President Bush later attempted to make these farmers whole by providing additional monies but unfortunately, these dollars were instead used for quality losses and not quantity losses.

This 50.04% pro rate has become a nemesis to the American farmer because President Clinton's proposal again contains this language. During his travels throughout the flood region, the President made it clear that the American farmers would receive about 50 cents on the dollar in compensation. However, under this proration, the farmer will only receive 21 cents on the dollar. A change in this policy will provide approximately 42 cents on the dollar to the farmer.

Now, I understand there is a cost of approximately \$900 million associated with this change. However, there will be some offset revenues. As market prices go up, because of the disaster, there will be a decrease in the form of deficiency payments to the farmer. USDA has indicated this savings could equal \$800 million or more which nearly pays for this increase.

This disaster bill is designed to take care of 1993 losses. However, unlike the droughts of past years that come and go, the Soil Conservation Service makes clear that, due to flooding, some farmers may not raise a crop next year or even the year after that because of top soil losses.

The people of the Midwest are faced with a catastrophe and this is no time to break promises. They need help and they need it now.

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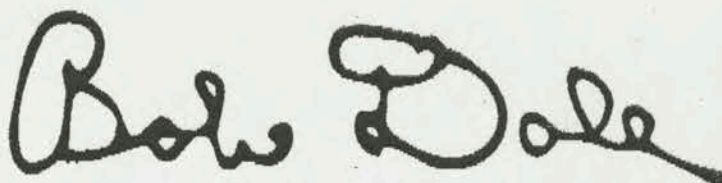
This 50.04% pro rate has become a nemesis to the American farmer because President Clinton's proposal again contains this language. During his travels throughout the flood region, the President made it clear that the American farmers would receive about 50 cents on the dollar in compensation. However, under this proration, the farmer will only receive 21 cents on the dollar. A change in this policy will provide approximately 42 cents on the dollar to the farmer.

Now, I understand there is a cost of approximately \$900 million associated with this change. However, there will be some offset revenues. As market prices go up, because of the disaster, there will be a decrease in the form of deficiency payments to the farmer. USDA has indicated this savings could equal \$800 million or more which nearly pays for this increase.

This disaster bill is designed to take care of 1993 losses. However, unlike the droughts of past years that come and go, the Soil Conservation Service makes clear that, due to flooding, some farmers may not raise a crop next year or even the year after that because of top soil losses.

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**NEWS****U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS****FROM:****SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

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Now, I understand there is a cost of approximately \$900 million associated with this change. However, there will be some offset revenues. As market prices go up, because of the disaster, there will be a decrease in the form of deficiency payments to the farmer. USDA has indicated this savings could equal \$800 million or more which nearly pays for this increase.

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Now, I understand there is a cost of approximately \$900 million associated with this change. However, there will be some offset revenues. As market prices go up, because of the disaster, there will be a decrease in the form of deficiency payments to the farmer. USDA has indicated this savings could equal \$800 million or more which nearly pays for this increase.

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