

*Bob Dole*



**NEWS**

**U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS**

**FROM:**

**SENATE MAJORITY LEADER**

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*  
*Tuesday, July 11, 1995*

*Contact: Clarkson Hine*  
*(202) 224-5358*

## **FOOD SAFETY**

### **DOLE AMENDMENT MAKES CRYSTAL CLEAR FOOD SAFETY PROTECTED** **UNDER REGULATORY REFORM; DUPLICATES PROTECTIONS IGNORED** **BY OPPONENTS' DISTORTIONS & SCARE TACTICS**

As I stated yesterday, opponents of regulatory reform have avoided the merits, and, instead, engaged in scare tactics.

One of the most recent, and perhaps the most offensive, of these scare tactics has been the suggestion that regulatory reform means tainted meat, specifically further outbreaks of e. coli food poisoning. This is an insult to the American people.

It is also false. Opponents know that this claim is false. The media knows it is false. Yesterday, I included in my statement and accompanying fact sheet in the record two specific provisions already in the bill that make it obvious that this bill would not hold up meat inspection rules.

One provision allows the implementation of a regulation without first complying with other requirements of the bill where there is "an emergency or health or safety threat."

It doesn't get any clearer than that. It is a sign of either sloppy journalism or extreme cynicism that the media has chosen to buy into these distortions in the face of language that makes clear that we have responsibly taken health and safety concerns into account.

Now, I do not for a moment really believe that opponents are unaware of this health and safety exemption. But, in an effort to ensure that we begin focusing on issues legitimately in debate, I am offering an amendment to make crystal clear that S. 343, the regulatory reform bill, has no effect on efforts to address food safety.

The words "health and safety" already part of the bill obviously include concerns about food safety. But this amendment goes ahead and adds the words "food safety, including an imminent threat from e. coli bacteria."

It concerns me that such distortions are being made. E coli bacteria and the illnesses that occur as a result of that bacteria are serious problems for the people of this country and every member of Congress, Democrat and Republican, is concerned.

Food safety is not a partisan issue. It should not be a partisan issue. But opponents have done a real disservice by trying to scare people.

Now that I have offered this amendment, opponents will no doubt come up with more imaginary scenarios. But I am putting them on notice that we chose the broadest possible phrase -- "emergency and health and safety threats" -- in the first place for a very good reason. We want to make sure every possible response to health and safety threats is exempted from delay where that is appropriate. Adding a laundry list as opponents would have us do undermines the very public policy goal opponents pretend they seek. This is so because it raises the possibility that someone could read this provision to exclude anything not specifically included.

That is not our intent. We want the broadest possible language so that we take care of all situations where a health or safety threat exists.

###

\* Remarks delivered on Senate floor, approximately 10:10 a.m.