

Bob Dole



NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

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REGULATORY REFORM DISTORTION UPDATE

DOLE SETS RECORD STRAIGHT ON PHONY CLAIM ABOUT REGULATORY REFORM & LEADED GASOLINE PHASE-OUT

In their ongoing effort to frighten the American people, the opponents of regulatory reform continue to spread their distortions through the media.

Last night, in a report on ABC's "World News Tonight," President Clinton's EPA Administrator Carol Browner made the following outrageous statement about our regulatory reform bill: "If these provisions had been in place over the last ten years, EPA would not have been able to ban lead in gasoline, and a whole generation of children would have suffered real and permanent brain damage." That's a catchy soundbite, but it is flatly false, and it went unchallenged in the report.

Here are the facts viewers didn't get last night. When a rule on lead phase-out was being considered in 1982, EPA resisted doing a cost benefit analysis. However, when a cost-benefit analysis was performed, it demonstrated the benefits outweighed the costs of eliminating lead from gasoline. Only then did EPA issue a rule providing for quick phase-out of lead. And in fact, as a result of that analysis, EPA issued a tougher standard than it would have previously. So, getting lead out of gasoline occurred precisely because a cost-benefit analysis supported doing so. Rather than undermining our reform effort, as Ms. Browner suggests, this example actually validates it.

This is not the first time we have heard this phony story from the administration. Even though we have set the record straight on that point during this debate, the EPA and some folks in the media didn't seem to notice.

I'm hardly the only one who has been disappointed by the spread of distortions about this bill. I ask unanimous consent to include in the record a letter I received today from the Governor of Ohio, George Voinovich, and the Governor of Iowa, Terry Branstad, taking exception with another ABC report last night that framed the debate on environmental regulations in Washington-knows-best terms.

This is certainly a complicated piece of legislation. But sometimes the facts are very simple. Dealing in facts is not too much to ask.

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