

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 9, 1992

Dear Bob:

I want to encourage you to vote this week for cloture on S. 640, the Product Liability Fairness Act, and for the bill itself. Our product liability laws need reform that can only be accomplished through clear and coherent national legislation. The current system of 51 separate product liability laws is plagued by uncertainties that hurt both consumers and product sellers. Meritless suits clog the system, preventing swift compensation to those with meritorious claims.

Under the current patchwork of laws, and varying rules, it takes an average of over two and one-half years to resolve product liability cases, and almost half of all money paid out in court cases goes into the pockets of lawyers. The fear of unfounded lawsuits prevents many companies from marketing innovative and useful products. Insurance costs are unnecessarily high. The result: consumers pay more for less choice; American companies are at a competitive disadvantage with foreign companies; and jobs are either lost or never created.

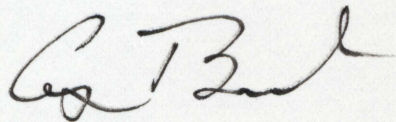
Clearly, the time has come for Congress to recognize the problem and act to fix it. Federal product liability reform has a long history of careful consideration and bipartisan support. The National Governors' Association has twice urged adoption of a single, predictable set of product liability rules.

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We cannot continue to talk about making American companies competitive and not recognize how government action or, in this case, inaction undermines the efforts of American workers and business to compete.

Again, I urge you to vote to bring the Product Liability Fairness Act to a vote and then to vote in favor of it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "R. Dole", written in a cursive style.

The Honorable Robert Dole
Republican Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510