

STATEMENT OF SENATOR BOB DOLE

AMERICA'S FARMERS AND THE

CLEAN AIR ACT

MR. PRESIDENT. AMERICA'S FARMERS ARE GETTING READY FOR THE COMING PLANTING SEASON AND ARE PROBABLY NOT PAYING MUCH ATTENTION TO THE CLEAN AIR DEBATE. BY THEIR VERY NATURE, FARMERS ARE THE ORIGINAL ENVIRONMENTALISTS. THEY OPERATE IN A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT AND ARE LARGELY UNAFFECTED BY MANY OF THE PROBLEMS THAT WE FACE IN URBAN AREAS THAT THE CLEAN AIR ACT IS DESIGNED TO ADDRESS.

HOWEVER, THERE IS A GREAT RISK THAT THIS BILL
COULD BE EXTENDED IN AN UNREASONABLE WAY
TO FARMERS AND FARM OPERATIONS IN THE
REGULATORY, IMPLEMENTATION AND
ENFORCEMENT PROCESS SIMPLY AS A MATTER OF
INTERPRETATION.

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JUST AS WE HAVE ATTEMPTED TO ADDRESS REAL
CONCERNS OF SMALL BUSINESS, SMALL
COMMUNITIES, SMALL OIL AND GAS PRODUCERS
AND OTHER ENTITIES THAT INDIVIDUALLY ARE NOT
RESPONSIBLE FOR THE URBAN DIRTY AIR
PROBLEMS THIS NATION FACES, FARMERS AND
FARM OPERATIONS ARE POTENTIAL CANDIDATES
FOR UNREASONABLE REGULATION UNDER THE
BROAD AUTHORITY OF THIS BILL.

ONE CONFUSING ASPECT OF THE CLEAN AIR BILL
THAT WE ARE DEBATING TODAY IS THE TREATMENT
OF THE USE OF AGRICULTURAL PESTICIDES BY
FARMERS UNDER THE BILL. CURRENTLY, IF
FARMERS USE PESTICIDES THEY MUST CURRENTLY
COMPLY WITH THE FEDERAL INSECTICIDE,
FUNGICIDE AND RODENTICIDE ACT (FIFRA).

FIFRA IS A VERY TECHNICAL AND PRECISE LAW
COVERING SPECIFIC DIRECTIONS SUCH AS DOSAGE
RATES, METHODS OF APPLICATION, INSTRUCTIONS
FOR DILUTION AND TYPES OF APPLICATION
APPARATUS, INCLUDING FREQUENCY AND TIMING OF
APPLICATIONS, AND OTHER LIMITATIONS AND
RESTRICTIONS ON PESTICIDE USE. IN FACT IT IS A
CRIMINAL ACT UNDER FIFRA TO APPLY A PESTICIDE
IN A MANNER INCONSISTENT WITH LABELING
INSTRUCTIONS. SEVERE PENALTIES COULD BE
IMPOSED.

REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE CLEAN AIR ACT COULD
FORCE FARMERS TO USE A DIFFERENT DOSAGE
REQUIRED FOR A PARTICULAR CROP OR TAKE
ACREAGE OUT OF CULTIVATION JUST TO COMPLY.
THIS AMENDMENT IS DESIGNED TO ENSURE THAT
PESTICIDE APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS UNDER
FIFRA ARE NOT ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY
INCONSISTENT REQUIREMENTS AND CONTROLS
UNDER THE CLEAN AIR ACT.

I AM PLEASED TO BE JOINED BY SENATORS HELMS,
SHELBY, COCHRAN, THURMOND, BOSCHWITZ,
INOUE, NICKLES, HEFLIN, BURNS, BOREN, BOND,
MCCONNELL, SYMMS AND PRYOR AS CO-SPONSORS
OF THIS AMENDMENT.

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FARMERS ARE ALREADY FACED WITH A
TREMENDOUS CHALLENGE TO PROVIDE THE
AMERICAN CONSUMER WITH AN ADEQUATE FOOD
SUPPLY. WE CAN ONLY EXPECT FOOD PRICES TO
GO UP AND FARMERS TO QUIT FARMING WHEN WE
LOAD THEM UP WITH UNNECESSARY FEDERAL
REGULATIONS.

I BELIEVE THE AMERICAN FARMER BELIEVES IN
CLEAN AIR AND AN ENVIRONMENTALLY SAFE
WORLD. THE SENATE SHOULD RESPECT THAT BY
ADOPTING THIS ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND
AMENDMENT.