

Congressman petitions Block on CCC grain backlog

WASHINGTON, D.C. — In an effort to "avert a potential market catastrophe," Northwest Iowa Congressman Berkley Bedell contacted Secretary of Agriculture John Block urging him to take "immediate action" to speed the movement of government-owned corn out of local elevators and terminal facilities into government storage facilities.

Once Bedell became aware of

the "developing backlog" of Commodity Credit Corporation owned grain in Iowa elevators and terminals, the Sixth District Representative telephoned the United States Department of Agriculture to express his concern over the "potentially disastrous" situation. Bedell then followed the phone call with a short letter to Secretary Block outlining his concerns.

"I have been contacted by several elevator managers who are extremely concerned that little or no action has been taken on their requests for loading orders to move this grain to government storage facilities," said Bedell, a member of the House Agriculture Committee.

"I am concerned that this serious situation could develop into a crisis, if, because of disastrously

low cash prices, many farmers decide to forfeit their grain under loan with the government instead of repaying the principle and interest," said Bedell in his letter.

Bedell expressed concern that if the government-owned corn was not removed from local

elevators, there would be inadequate commercial storage capacity for this fall's record corn crop.

Bedell said the tight storage situation was first brought to his attention by the elevator manager in Wall Lake, Iowa.

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