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Docket Clerk
AMS Fruit and Vegetable Programs
Market Order Administration Branch
USDA Mail Stop 0237
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20250-0201

December 6, 2002

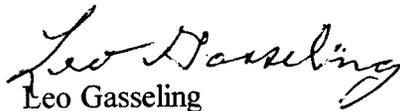
To Whom It May Concern:

As a grower of hops for over 60 years, and even though I was completely opposed to the previous Federal Marketing Order for hops, I wish to go on record as being in favor of the current proposed Federal Marketing Order. Our industry has changed so dramatically over the past few years, I hardly recognize it.

I have come to believe that without a mandatory regulation, we will continually over-produce and prices will continue to be so low that many growers will be forced out of business.

This is not a Government bailout, but a request for self-regulation and I urge you to let the process to move forward as soon as possible.

Sincerely yours,


Leo Gasseling