

Mike Gasseling
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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

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To Whom It May Concern:

As a hop grower in the Yakima valley of Washington State, I would like to go on record as supporting the proposed Federal Marketing Order for hops. This is a tool that we can use to control the over supply. As I understand the proposal, the goal is to make enough product available to meet demand and increase market share, but not allow the continued over production that has plagued our industry for the past number of years.

All we have been hearing lately from Dealers and Brewers alike is that we must take control of our own industry. This means being responsible for managing our production. Over the past few years there have been attempts at voluntary programs and they have been total failures. We must have a mandatory program that protects all growers and allows everyone to participate on a level playing field.

During the many industry meetings held by the proponents committee they have asked for anyone with a better program to come forward and to date no one has. Even opponents with in the hop industry admit something must be done, but they have no suggestions except that they don't want a marketing order.

I would ask the Department to allow the process to go forward so that the majority of American hop growers can determine their own destiny.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mike Gasseling".

Mike Gasseling