

Wm. Gasseling Ranches, Inc.

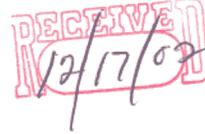
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December 12, 2002



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

To Whom It May Concern:

I am an American hop grower and wish to go on record as supporting the proposed Federal Marketing Order.

We need this tool to regulate ourselves so we don't continually have over production and prices so low that many growers are on the verge of going out of business. We are not asking the Federal Government to bail us out, but to give us the right to regulate ourselves, thus helping to assure our survival and more importantly the survival of part of the US agricultural community. I firmly believe that the US farmer can over produce any thing he/she grows and the Federal Marketing Order will help the US hop farmer address that problem.

We look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Gasseling". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert Gasseling
President