

**TO:** Hearing Clerk  
USDA  
**FROM:** John C. Decas  
**RE:** Federal Register, Vol. 69, No. 82, April 28, 2004  
**Docket Nos. AO-341-A6; FV02-929-1**

I am including with my comments a copy of a letter posted on the Reader Forum of the Cranberry Stressline website.

With the exception of comments in this letter regarding the two US senators from Maine, I fully endorse all other portions of this letter, which clearly articulates how I feel as well.

As a grower/handler and as a member of the Cranberry Marketing Committee, and because I am in full agreement with the rationale as outlined in this letter, I am urging the USDA to reverse its recommendation against the expansion of the production area to include the states of Delaware, New York and Maine.

It is a rare occasion when every US grower, every handler and every cranberry grower association, along with all the members of the CMC are in agreement on any CMC issue. How can the USDA defy such a strongly held position by the entire industry?

If the USDA does not reverse their recommendation, they greatly diminish and compromise the credibility of the CMC and the order itself.

How do we explain this decision to the growers? How do we tell them that a chosen group gets a free ride?

The Cranberry Marketing Order is referred to as a federal marketing order. How can it be considered federal or even fair if some growers, who benefit from the CMO, are exempted from the rules, regulations and expenses of the CMO?

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