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4/28/03

FAX to

Administrator
Agricultural Marketing Service
USDA Mail Stop 0201
1400 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20250-0201

Proposed Amendment to Federal Raisin marketing Order

Two pages attached

Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service
USDA Mail Stop 0201
1400 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20250-0201

RE: Proposed Amendment to Federal Raisin Marketing Order

April 25, 2003

I am an independent grower/producer of raisins. I have operated as and independent since 1985.

Section 989.111 Independent producer and small cooperative producer defines an Independent producer as:

- (a) Independent producer means any producer who is not a member of a cooperative bargaining association or a cooperative marketing association, nor has sold for cash to a cooperative marketing association.

This definition needs to be changed to allow an independent producer to sell to the marketing association without sacrificing their identity and their voice.

The definition should read:

- (a) Independent producer means any producer who is not a member of a cooperative bargaining association or a cooperative marketing association.

Producers who are members of the marketing association rightfully have an identity, a vote, a voice, as a member of the association. Members of cooperative bargaining associations who sell for cash to a cooperative marketing association retain their identity their vote, their voice, as members of the bargaining association. It is only right that the independent producer retain their identity, their vote and their voice when they sell to a cooperative marketing association for cash.

See attached Justification for (Informal) Rule Making.

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Justification for (Informal) Rule Making

Specific Section(s) of the order authorizing the recommended action.

Sec. 989.111

2 Recommended effective date and reason that the date is needed.

August 1, 2003

3 Clear definition of the problem.

Independent producers who choose to sell for cash to a cooperative marketing association are being denied their identity, their vote and their voice.

4 Conditions that lead to the problem.

There are a limited number of handlers. The cooperative marketing association is a large handler and is buying outside fruit for cash.

5 How will the recommendation address or correct the situation?

It will restore the identity, the vote, the voice of the independent producer who sells for cash to the cooperative marketing association.

It will give the independent producer more choices when marketing his or her crop.

6. Are there viable alternatives to the recommended action?

7. Expected results of the regulation.

It will allow the independent producer to maintain their identity, their vote, their voice.

8. Impact of the regulation on small business

me.

9. Vote on the recommendation and discussion of the reasons for any dissenting votes.

None.

10. Summary of concerns raised when the recommended action is controversial or raises specific problems. None.