

DOC HASTINGS

4TH DISTRICT, WASHINGTON

**COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS
OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT**
RANKING REPUBLICAN MEMBER

COMMITTEE ON RULES

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON RULES
AND ORGANIZATION OF THE HOUSE**
RANKING REPUBLICAN MEMBER



1214 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-5816

2715 SAINT ANDREWS LOOP, SUITE D
PASCO, WA 99301
(509) 543-9396

302 EAST CHESTNUT
YAKIMA, WA 98901
(509) 452-3243

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

January 28, 2008

The Honorable Charles Connor
Acting Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Acting Secretary Connor:

On behalf of the many Concord grape growers in Washington state, I am writing to urge you to once again direct the Agriculture Marketing Service to increase Concord grape purchases for federal nutrition programs.

In past years of record harvest, the Department of Agriculture has made significant Concord grape juice purchases. In addition to helping the market absorb these surpluses, the recipients of this federal food aid have enjoyed the benefits of this juice.

The year Concord grape growers in Washington and throughout the nation are again experiencing record high production. The 2007 Concord grape crop is the second largest in U.S. history, and one of the best quality in recent years. I urge the Department to take advantage of this opportunity to purchase this high quality juice for the federal nutrition programs, including the school lunch program and senior meal initiatives.

If you have any questions, please contact Tara Ord of my Washington, DC office. Thank you for your assistance and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Doc Hastings".

Doc Hastings
Member of Congress