

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 18, 2025

The Honorable Brooke Rollins
Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Jamie L. Whitten Building, Suite 200-A
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Rollins:

We respectfully ask the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), through the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), work with the Concord grape industry to help reduce surplus juice inventories by initiating a bonus purchase of 2.4 million cases of Concord grape juice (50k equivalent tons), to be split between the 2024 and 2025 crop years for use in AMS-supported commodity programs.

Recently, the Concord grape industry experienced higher-than-average yields. This has resulted in a large carryover of juice inventory, which, along with the incoming crop, is exerting significant downward pressure on grower prices and the cash market. Furthermore, the industry has seen a sharp decline in export sales—particularly bulk juice shipments to several Pacific Rim countries—worsening the current oversupply.

Given current market conditions, this is an opportune time for AMS to purchase nutritious Concord grape juice at favorable prices. Previous AMS bonus buys have proven to be an effective tool for stabilizing the market and supporting grower income. It has been several years since the industry last requested USDA intervention; however, recent extraordinary crop sizes now threaten to severely disrupt Concord markets in key producing states, such as New York, Pennsylvania, Washington, and Michigan.

Swift action by the USDA would help prevent these disruptions and offer critical support to the over 600 growers on 34,000 acres, along with the communities that depend on this vital crop.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We respectfully request to be kept informed of USDA's efforts to assist the Concord grape industry.

Sincerely,

David H. McCormick
United States Senator

Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator

Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

