

March 14, 2024

Southern SARE
Graduate Student Grant
111 Stuckey Drive, Stuckey Building
University of Georgia-Griffin Campus
Griffin, GA, 30223

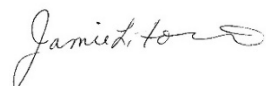
Dear Grant Review Committee

I am pleased to write this support letter for Erik Zamora for his Graduate Student Grant application to Southern SARE. Erik Zamora is currently working as a graduate student under the direction of Dr. Sanku Dattamudi, an Assistant Professor of Soil Science and Agroecology at Texas A&M University – Kingsville. I am a Professor of Forage Agronomy and have been with Texas A&M AgriLife Research for over 15 years and I am currently serving as a committee member for Erik Zamora.

Erik is working on soil physicochemical properties influenced by cover crop mixtures and tillage under a cotton-sorghum crop rotation system in a long-term experiment at Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Corpus Christi. Currently, this research does not have a funding source and is funded internally. This Southern SARE Graduate Student Grant will allow Mr. Zamora to extend his current research and develop a soil carbon balance, which is an important component of this study. Mr. Zamora has been working diligently to collect, process, and analyze samples since he started working on this project. He has taken initiative and ownership to schedule his field work. He is a budding scientist and extremely deserving of this grant opportunity that will shape his research skills towards sustainable agriculture. I will encourage him to demonstrate his research outcomes to the growers of South Texas during Extension programs.

I am giving my full support for this grant application. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,



Jamie Foster, Ph.D.
Professor of Forage Agronomy
Scientist-in-Charge at Texas A&M AgriLife Research - Beeville Station