AECOM
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November 10, 2020

Southern SARE
1109 Experiment St., Stuckey Building
University of Georgia
Griffin, GA 30223

Dear Southern Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Grants Management:

I am writing this letter in support of the SSARE grant proposal "The use of cyanobacteria (Cyanophyta) biofertilizer to enhance crop productivity, improve soil health, and agricultural sustainability in Florida" led by Florida International University Agroecology program.

AECOM launched 28 years ago with employees from design and engineering companies that shared a dream of creating an industry-leading firm dedicated to making the world a better place. While our official founding was in 1990, many of our predecessor firms, such as Dames & Moore, Woodward Clyde, ENSR, Metcalf & Eddy, and Radian have distinguished histories. Since 1990, more than 50 companies have joined AECOM and, in 2007, we became a publicly traded company on the New York Stock Exchange. In 2014, we more than doubled our revenue and workforce with the acquisition of URS, which expanded our capabilities and solidified us as a premier, fully integrated infrastructure firm. At AECOM, we work closely with clients and communities to solve the most complex environmental challenges throughout the business life cycle.

For example, our innovative algae harvesting, and nutrient reduction program provides the framework for restoring nutrient impact waterways worldwide. The program has grown from its early studies and field scale demonstrations to a multimillion-dollar emergency clean-up program that provided immediate relief from last summer's ecological disaster in Florida. A state of emergency was declared by Florida's Governor and AECOM's algae harvesting technology was selected as the best technology to help mitigate the crisis. Our innovative algae harvesting process, which removes the algae cells intact, also provides a biomass that can be used as for energy production and commercial footwear products and has the potential for use as a bio fertilizer.

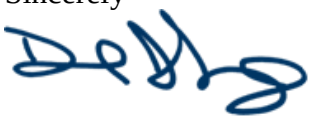
We support FIU's Agroecology program team to execute this project. The proposal's scope is to develop and evaluate an innovative novel idea of preparing biofertilizer from freshwater algal blooms and use if for sustainable food production. This biofertilizer will not only benefit Florida organic growers, but it will also help to maintain environmental sustainability and ecosystem services. We have been in discussion with FIU's Agroecology team for coordinating algal bloom collection schedule, overseeing safe biofertilizer production, application in the field, and data collection.

We are happy to provide algae harvesting services, expert advice and technical assistance with the successful execution of the project. We strongly support this research effort and believe this work will provide tremendous environmental, agricultural, economic benefit to Florida's organic growers. We are confident that this research project will provide strong insights into the reuse potential of the algal mass and we strongly support funding this innovative research project.

AECOM

Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions or would like any additional information at 305-519-1194 or dan.levy@aecom.com.

Sincerely



Daniel J. Levy, PG
Vice President