

Virginia Tech - CALS  
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29 November 2021

Sally Taylor  
Virginia Tech Agricultural Research and Extension Center  
6321 Holland Rd.  
Suffolk, VA 23437

Dear Sally,

I writing this letter in support of your Southern Sustainable Agricultural Research and Education On-Farm Research Grant proposal titled, "Evaluation of current Virginia peanut cultivars, and advanced breeding lines, for southern corn rootworm resistance." Your proposed research topic addresses a an immediate need for peanut farmers in Virginia. I have received several calls from producers and industry representatives who are concerned for pest management in peanut following the loss of chlorpyrifos. I have personally visited multiple fields with heavy damage over several years at Virginia Tech. This project will answer one of our most pressing needs, determining what cultivars, if any, can control this pest in the absence of pesticides. Findings from this project will benefit growers, crop advisors, extension agents, and industry representatives.

I am willing to collaborate on this project as the peanut physiologist specialist for Virginia and director of the Peanut Value and Quality Evaluation program. I will be pleased to help design protocols, advise the graduate student, and provide technical support during planting and harvest if this project is funded. If you would like to follow up with any more questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Professor, Virginia Tech

*Invent the Future*