

30 November 2021

Dr. Sally Taylor
Tidewater Agricultural Research and Extension Center
6321 Holland Rd.
Suffolk, VA 23437

Re: Southern Sustainable Agricultural Research and Education On-Farm Research Grant proposal

Dear Sally,

As the Program Manager for the Virginia and National Peanut boards, I am writing this letter in support of your grant titled "Evaluation of current Virginia peanut cultivars, and advanced breeding lines, for southern corn rootworm resistance." The Commonwealth's peanut producers have requested, and will greatly benefit from, a sustainable rootworm control method that helps them manage this key insect pest. Within the past decade, peanut farmers have faced several limitations on their ability to farm profitably, including the loss of chlorpyrifos. Rootworms represent an immediate challenge because we have no labeled treatment. Our crop producers would greatly benefit from having a resistant cultivar.

I strongly support your efforts to conduct this research and keep our crop producers informed on your integrated pest management findings. The Virginia Peanut Board endorses Virginia Tech's efforts to help farmers meet production challenges and remain profitable. Please let me know if there is further assistance that I may provide.

Sincerely,



Dell Cotton
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