

January 28, 2022

United States Department of Agriculture
National Institute of Food and Agriculture
Specialty Crops Research Initiative

To Whom It May Concern,

As the owner of Mr. Wizard's Hop Farm (MWHF) in Monroe, MI. I am writing to offer our strong support for the proposal being submitted by Great Lakes Hops, (GLH) Zeeland, MI to the USDA Specialty Crop Research Initiative Grants Program. The proposal submitted by GLH will greatly benefit MWHF and other growers in our growing region, in many different aspects; and as grower, harvester and processor of the standard varieties and the new Michigan Proprietaries developed by GLH. This research will help improve the sustainability of Michigan's hop industry. Michigan is currently ranked 4th in acres of hops and number of breweries. This research will undoubtedly improve quality and thus improve our yields.

One specific goal we find vastly important is gaining knowledge to better understand the unique aromatic qualities of the hops produced on our farm which are very different from many other farms in Michigan. We will work with GLH, who will survey our 20 acres of our hopyard for incidence of insect pests, disease and development for best growth practices. GLH provides a medium for growers to network, which enables unity in marketing and sales.

For Michigan to remain desirable as a source for hops, in the industry, this practice must be developed and expanded. We fully support their efforts obtaining grants to help promote our industry and continue with best growth practices which will result in higher yields and more opportunities in the marketplace.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Thank you very much

Rosemarie Stahl

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CIO/Sales and Marketing Director

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