

February 22, 2022

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

To Whom It May Concern,

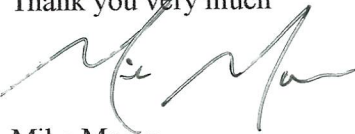
As the President of MI Local Hops LLC in Williamsburg Michigan, I am writing to offer our support for the proposal being submitted by Great Lakes Hops, (GLH) Holland, MI to the USDA Specialty Crop Research Initiative Grants Program. We feel that the grant submission of "USDA SCBG - Competitive Grant Great Lakes Hops Collaborative Grow Group Initiative" can continue to greatly benefit MI Local Hops and other growers, processors, and brokers in our state. MI Local Hops LLC is the largest grower, harvester, and processor of commodity cultivar east of the Rocky Mountains and we proudly grow two of the new Michigan select hops developed by GLH also in our hopyard. MI Local has become a preferred processing facility working with the Great Lakes Hops grower group since 2019 on a collaborative blending project of crops from multiple Michigan farms. The goal of the project has been to assist in creating a high quality, and consistent quantity of the GLH select hop portfolio. The GLH commitment to the growth and development of cooperation of Michigan hop farms through the select hop program has shown positive results.

First and foremost the development of high quality new cultivar that has been made accessible to our Michigan farms is paramount to the future sustainable success of our industry. For sustainable success we must have a competitive final product available to our customer base while we expand our reach into markets in and outside of Michigan and North America.

The GLH select hop program has also become a reliable conduit for information and networking. The farms inside of the GLH network have been sharing successes and areas of opportunity for challenges such as pests, disease, cleanliness, and the development of best growth practices. GLH provides a platform for growers to network, which enables unity in marketing and sales as well.

In order for Michigan to reestablish its reputation as a competitive source for hops this program must be supported, developed and expanded. We support the Great Lakes Hops efforts in obtaining this grant to help promote our industry while continuing the research and development of new cultivar, better farming practices, and more developed sales and marketing channels.

Thank you very much



Mike Moran
President
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