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Dr. Jeff Jacobsen
North Central Regional Association, Director
446 west Circle, room 408
Justin S. Morrill hall of Agriculture
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI 48824

Dear Dr. Jacobsen,

I am writing in support of the NC-140 Regional Research Project nomination for the "Excellence in Multistate Research Award" I believe my comments would be echoed by many of my colleagues in the commercial tree fruit industry.

As a fruit tree nursery, we are asked by our clients to advise them in the decision on rootstock selection for new orchard plantings. Growers generally know the varieties they will plant but many times struggle with the decision on what rootstock to use. The rootstock selection is a difficult decision because it has such critical impact on the success of the new planting. Reliable information on rootstock performance was difficult to access prior to the NC-140 Project. Many costly mistakes were made due to the lack of this knowledge.

The NC-140 Project is a well-designed, multi-state project involving research institutions across a wide range of climatic/geographical conditions. The data has been analyzed over a long period of time using consistent analytical methods. The research plots have been well managed by many talented horticulturists with a common goal and this information has been made available by the stakeholders throughout the country and internationally.

As Chair of the State Horticultural of PA Research Committee, I can attest to the fact that our board has reviewed and funded at least one project annually in support of the NC-140 project at Penn State University. This has been ongoing for at least 20 years. Our committee recently visited the research site at Rock Springs, PA with Dr. Rob Crassweller and as always, there is something interesting to observe.

This program has provided valuable information to the industry for many years and continues to provide our standard base of knowledge on rootstock performance.

My regards,

Phillip D. Baugher, President
Adams County Nursery, Inc.

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