July 31, 2018

To the Northeast Experimental Stations Board of Directors:

I am writing in support of the Multistate proposal NE_TEMP1838: Development of a Weed Emergence Model for the Northeastern United States. Real-time decision support tools for weed management have not been developed for the Northeast, despite the existence of a range of similar tools for insect pests and crop pathogens. As an organic farm, weeds are a consistent challenge, that factors heavily into our management strategies. The ability to predict percent emergence of major agricultural weeds in the Northeast would minimize repeat management actions for weed control, reducing our costs and off-target impacts excessive tillage potentially impacting soil health. Such tools exist for the Midwest, Italy's Veneto region, and other areas, but the Northeast US is behind in this regard. The Network for Environment and Weather Applications (newa.cornell.edu) provides an appropriate existing platform for such a decision tool, where an existing suite of similar tools are already housed. This tool would help our farm and our partners to more appropriately target weed control strategies, and would benefit our whole operation as well as the wider communities we farm in.

Sincerely,

Emily Reiss
Director of Technical Services
Kreher Family Farms
5411 Davison Road
Clarence, NY 14031