

Dear North Central Development Committee:

The purpose of this letter is to express my strong support for the approval of the proposed multistate project NC-\_temp1210 "Frontiers in On-Farm Experimentation" being submitted by Professor Bullock and colleagues. My view is that on-farm precision experimentation (OFPE) is soon going to revolutionize agronomic research. I have personal experience conducting and analyzing some of the first OFPEs, and I am convinced that they are needed to generate the very kinds of data that will be required to take digital agricultural from something people talk about to something that radically changes real-world farming. But one difficulty is that OFPEs, if they are to be run right and meet their full potential, will have to be organized and conducted by multidisciplinary research groups. Crop scientists, soil scientists, engineers, computer scientists, and economists are all absolutely needed, and they need to be able to work together. This required multidisciplinarity is a chief reason why creating NC-\_temp1210 is a great idea. There really aren't many other good ways for researchers from such different areas to get together to discuss their work. The team that Professor Bullock has already put together consists of highly qualified researchers from across the country, some of whom have already achieved success collaborating on OFPE research in a USDA-NIFA-funded project (16976). I foresee a huge social payoff from providing them, and the several new researchers that will join the project, with an annual opportunity to meet face-to-face to organize and advance their work together, and set up an OFPE research and outreach infrastructure. In fact, I whole heartedly support this effort by Professor Bullock and colleagues to advance this multistate "Frontiers in On-farm Experimentation" project.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for further information.

Sincerely,



Germán Bollero  
Associate Dean of Research