

Attachment 5. Letters of support from private industry, commodity and trade organizations representing WRPIS industry stakeholders.



December 10, 2025

Drs. Marilyn Warburton & Per McCord
WRPIS Coordinator & W6 Project Director
Washington State University
Pullman, WA 99164, USA

Dear Drs. Warburton & McCord,

As President of the National Alfalfa & Forage Alliance (NAFA), I am writing to express our support for the research proposal titled "Promoting long-term sustainable management and use of vital agricultural plant germplasm." We understand that the proposal is for the continuation of support from federal Hatch Funds to Washington State University who works in partnership with USDA-ARS to operate the Western Regional Plant Introduction Station (WRPIS) genebank in Pullman, WA.

The National Alfalfa & Forage Association is a nonprofit agricultural trade association dedicated to ensuring the ability of all segments of the alfalfa industry to compete effectively and profitably, domestically and abroad. One of NAFA's most important roles is to support research we believe will have significant benefit to the alfalfa industry. Alfalfa is the nation's fourth most valuable field crop (behind only corn, soybean, and wheat), yet it is extremely under-recognized in research funding arenas.

We recognize the value of the National Plant Germplasm System and its important genebank locations. The WRPIS is responsible for conserving and promoting the use of many forage species, including collections of the "Queen of the Forages," alfalfa. The industry and stakeholders we represent rely on improved alfalfa cultivars that address increased forage yield, quality, and the crop's resilience. Often, the traits needed for breeding these modern cultivars to help sustainable crop production are found in these irreplaceable germplasm collections. Your plans to provide continued access to alfalfa and other germplasm are important to the agricultural communities we represent and consumers generally. The continued collaborative research proposed across USDA-ARS sites and with academic and private partners to evaluate alfalfa germplasm for important disease and agronomic traits along with the pre-breeding efforts align well with NAFA priorities.

As we have indicated here, we are very supportive of the mission of the WRPIS and look forward to being able to provide input and participate, as needed, in developing strategies that aid in meeting your continued service and research mission.

If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Beth C. W. Nelson
President