



BEET SUGAR DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

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SUBJECT: Letter of Support: NIFA Regional Proposal: "Promoting long-term sustainable management and use of vital agricultural plant germplasm"

FROM: Anna Murphy, Executive Vice President, Beet Sugar Development Foundation

Drs. Marilyn Warburton & Per McCord
WRPIS Coordinator & Principal Investigator
Washington State University
Pullman, WA 99164, USA

Dear Drs. Warburton & McCord,

I am writing this letter in support of your multistate regional proposal entitled "Promoting long-term sustainable management and use of vital agricultural plant germplasm" which helps sustain your genebank plant genetic resources service and research objectives.

The mission of the Beet Sugar Development Foundation (BSDF) is to unite the industry to advance beet sugar production through research, education, and partnerships. The BSDF has a long-standing relationship with the USDA and has found incredible value in the work conducted at the USDA-ARS Pullman, WA location in particular.

We understand the value of the National Plant Germplasm System and the important genebank locations. The Western Regional Plant Introduction Station (WRPIS) in Pullman, WA is responsible for the collections of many important crops and their germplasm that support our industry and stakeholders, including sugar beet. The sugar beet industry relies on the germplasm within the WRPIS collections as a source of variation for improved cultivars and the new traits needed for coping with the ever changing and increasing number of challenges in production systems. The large and diverse *Beta* spp. collections are extremely important to plant breeders and the stakeholders we represent.

The proposal being submitted to the NIFA Hatch Multistate project system will help to support the mission and objectives of the WRPIS genebank, which is to acquire, maintain, evaluate, enhance, characterize, document and distribute assigned genetic resources of the USDA-ARS National Plant Germplasm System (NPGS), and to conduct research related to our primary mission. We find each of these activities to be urgently needed (and would ideally like to see this