February 12, 2021

Dear USDA/NIFA,

I approve the submission of “The Vermont IPM Extension Implementation Program: 2021-2024” as the official application from University of Vermont for the Crop Protection and Pest Management Competitive grants program. The Vermont IPM Program areas of emphasis are critical to Vermont agriculture and communities: IPM in Agronomic Crops; IPM in Specialty Crops (Fruit, Greenhouse/High Tunnels/Nursery); IPM in Communities; IPM support for Pest Diagnostic Facilities; IPM for Pollinator Health and IPM Education for Pesticide Applicators. These areas are extremely well-matched with the expertise and capacity at the University of Vermont. In addition, these specific IPM programs will involve extensive collaboration with grower associations, state/federal agencies, and regional and national institutions to improve the adoption and implementation of IPM practices to benefit a wide variety of Vermont stakeholders. With Extension being level funded for many years in addition to the fact Vermont is a small state with no commodity-based funding, these IPM funds are critical for our outreach IPM efforts.

Sincerely,

Dan Lerner, Ph.D.
Associate Director and Chair
UVM Extension