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NATIONAL ONION  
ASSOCIATION

December 8, 2016

Dr. Brian A. Nault  
Department of Entomology  
Cornell University  
New York State Agricultural Experiment Station  
630 W. North Street  
Geneva, NY 14456

Dear Brian,

National Onion Association (NOA) is the non-profit trade association representing the United States bulb onion industry. The Association includes about 500 members from throughout the entire country and comprises growers, shippers, handlers, and suppliers involved in various aspects of the business. NOA endeavors to improve the business environment of all participants in the industry, and to educate consumers concerning the outstanding nutritional and healthful attributes of onion.

Onion is the third largest fresh vegetable crop in the U.S., the second most diversely consumed vegetable in the world, and the most widely traded raw vegetable on the globe. Domestic per capita consumption has risen over 65% during the past thirty years and the crop generates a farm gate value of approximately \$1.25 billion annually.

NOA strongly supports research and extension described in the Multi-State Project proposal entitled ***W3008: Integrated Onion Pest and Disease Management***. The objectives of this proposed project are as follows: 1) Evaluate onion germplasm for resistance to pathogens and insects, 2) Investigate the biology, ecology and management of onion thrips and other pests, 3) Investigate the biology, epidemiology and management of onion plant pathogens, and 4) Facilitate discussions between W3008 participants and onion industry stakeholders that will advance onion pest and disease management.

Your diverse team of research and extension specialists from land grant universities, the USDA-ARS, and private sector companies is ideally suited to deliver comprehensive information and timely pest management strategies.

Thank you for past contributions and your continued efforts on behalf of the United States onion industry and the consumers it serves. Please keep us informed of your progress.

Sincerely,

Wayne Mininger

Executive Vice President