April 9, 2025

The Honorable Brooke L. Rollins
Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Re: USDA NIFA Crop Protection and Pest Management Program

Dear Secretary Rollins:

We the undersigned organizations strongly support the Crop Protection and Pest Management (CPPM) program, which delivers Integrated Pest Management (IPM) tools to protect American farms, families and food security from insects, diseases, weeds and other pests that destroy crops and sicken people.

With IPM, growers are able to choose from – and combine – biological, cultural, physical and chemical tools to control pests effectively and economically. CPPM is the key program at USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) supporting this science, and it delivers an incredible return on its $21 million budget by protecting America's nearly $1 trillion agricultural enterprise from crops-destroying pests while simultaneously reducing human health and environmental risks of pesticides and slowing the rate of pesticide resistance. In Texas alone, the CPPM-funded state IPM program documented an average annual economic impact of more than $32 million, and a reduction in overall pesticide use coupled with growing use of pesticides safer for beneficial insects and the environment.

CPPM supports a network of IPM researchers and extension agents in every state who work with local growers, commodity commissions, regulators, pest control advisors and the crop-protection industry to understand local pest-management needs and create effective solutions. This network plays a vital role in U.S. agricultural biosecurity, working alongside the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, the National Plant Diagnostic Network and the IR-4 Specialty Crop Pest Management Program. Furthermore, USDA labs that do identifications and systematics research provide the critical identifications of pest and biocontrol species that allow these implementation programs to be successful - for example, the ARS Systematic Entomology Lab, ARS Nematology Lab, and the ARS microbial collection.

When invasive species evade early detection, IPM research develops effective control strategies. Beyond agriculture, CPPM also supports research and extension to protect homes, schools and businesses from disease-carrying public-health pests like mosquitoes, ticks and rats. CPPM supports flows through three program areas:

- Extension Implementation Program (EIP): Funds state extension activities to help farmers and communities implement IPM practices.
- Regional Coordination Program (RCP): Funds four **Regional IPM Centers** to coordinate research and extension to amplify the efforts of 50 individual states.
- Applied Research and Development Program (ARDP): Funds research to develop new IPM technologies, strategies and practices.

Examples of the great work CPPM has supported include the following:

- **Northeastern IPM Center**: Led by Cornell University (includes CT, DE, MA, MD, ME, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT, WV, DC), the Northeastern Center has led efforts against Spotted Lanternfly since 2018 to protect billions of dollars of threatened agricultural produce, especially wine grapes. A Center-funded work group launched with $9,995 later developed a $7.3 million research grant to combat the insect – an ROI of 730:1.
- **Southern IPM Center**: Led by the University of Georgia and North Carolina State University (includes AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, OK, PR, SC, TN, TX, VA), the Southern Center supports IT infrastructure to monitor 350 pests and diseases in field corn, wheat, soybean, cucurbits, sweet corn, pecan, pasture, sweet potato, cotton and 13 other commodities. It also maintains digital tools developed by other CPPM-funded programs to deliver critical information to stakeholders.
- **Western IPM Center**: Led by University of California Davis, University of Arizona and Oregon State University (includes AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, MT, NM, NV, OR, UT, WA, WY), the Western Center has helped reduced pesticide use by more than 80% in some crops. In Arizona cotton alone, this kept 21 million pounds of insecticides out of the environment, improved crop yields and saved growers more than $542 million. Center-collected data has also influenced multiple proposed U.S. EPA pesticide regulations, preserving responsible uses for Western growers.
- **North Central IPM Center**: Led by Iowa State University and Michigan State University (includes IA, IL, IN, KS, MI, MN, MO, ND, NE, OH, SD, and WI), the North Central Center achieved a 13:1 ROI from $3.5 million in leveraged funding in 2023. Research-based resources delivered to sunflower and legume farmers reduced fungicide use, increased yields, and promoted sustainability across 4.8 million acres annually.

To maximize their impact, the state IPM programs and Regional IPM Centers recently developed a **Public IPM Enterprise Strategic Plan** to unite in a shared vision of "A nation where everyone can access the integrated pest management information, tools and services they need to protect their health, home and livelihood." The authors documented the existing IPM infrastructure in each state and conducted a SWOT analysis of American IPM. From that, six core commitments were identified, outlining specific actions to build on strengths, address weaknesses and seize opportunities through new partnerships and innovations. The plan creates a clear path for increasing IPM efficiency and adoption while better integrating CPPM-supported entities with other biosecurity efforts protecting American food security.

The CPPM program puts boots on the ground doing the work to help American farmers and pest managers. It delivers an incredible return on a small investment and yields tangible benefits for our nation's farmers, families and food supply. We urge you to prioritize its continued funding to ensure a thriving agricultural future for generations to come.

Thank you for your attention and support.

Sincerely,

ABC Home & Commercial Services
Agricultural Experimental Station - University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez Campus
Agricultural Extension Service - University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez Campus
AgriThority LLC
American Beekeeping Federation
American Honey Producers Association
American Phytopathological Society

American Society for Horticultural Science
American Society of Agronomy
AmericanHort
Aquatic Plant Management Society
Bayer Crop Science
Biological Products Industry Alliance
Bishop Museum
California Citrus Mutual
Cereals & Grains Association
Crop Science Society of America
Entomological Society of America
Griffing Consulting LLC
Hawaii Coffee Association
Hawaii Department of Agriculture
Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Forestry and Wildlife
Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association
Hawaii Invasive Species Council
Hawaii Macadamia Nut Association
Hop Growers of America
Hop Research Council
InnerPlant, Inc.
International Certified Crop Advisers
International Fresh Produce Association
Iowa Soybean Association
IPM Institute
Kona Coffee Farmers Association
Mountainland Apples, Inc.
Mueller Farms
National Agricultural Genotyping Center
National Alfalfa & Forage Alliance
National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants
National Environmental Health Association
National Pest Management Association (NPMA)
National Predictive Modeling Tool Initiative
North American Invasive Species Management Association
North Central Weed Science Society
Northeastern Weed Science Society
Northwest Horticultural Council
Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service
Oklahoma Peanut Commission
Oklahoma State University

Oklahoma Wheat Commission
Oregonians for Food and Shelter
Pacific Northwest Vegetable Association
Payson Fruit Growers
Pro Farm Group
Society of Nematologists
Southern Weed Science Society
Synergistic Hawaii Agriculture Council
University of Delaware
University of Delaware Cooperative Extension
University of Georgia
Utah Nursery & Landscape Association
Utah State Horticulture Association
Virginia Tech
Wasatch Community Gardens
Washington Hop Commission
Weed Science Society of America
Western Growers
Western Society of Weed Science
Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation

Cc:
The Honorable Spiro Stefanou, United States Department of Agriculture
The Honorable John Boozman, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry
The Honorable Amy Klobuchar, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry
The Honorable GT Thompson, House Committee on Agriculture
The Honorable Angie Craig, House Committee on Agriculture
The Honorable John Hoeven, Senate Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen, Senate Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Andy Harris, House Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Sanford Bishop, House Committee on Appropriations