

[on your letterhead]

[date]

Michelle Sharrow

VIA EMAIL: Michelle.sharrow@usda.gov

Director, Market Development Division

USDA-AMS Specialty Crop Program

1400 Independence Ave., SW

Washington, DC 20250

Dear Director Sharrow;

On behalf of [organization name], I am writing to express our support for the American Grapevine Genetics Research Initiative—the working group name for the Grapevine Nursery Industry’s future Research and Promotion Program proposal through USDA’s Agriculture Marketing Services. As a key stakeholder in the Grape industry, we recognize the significant potential this initiative has for all our grape grower’s future success.

A successful R&P Program proposal will fund critical research aimed at improving the genetics of Grapevine material. The monies for this research will come from all U.S. grape grower’s purchase of grapevine materials and will be directed by regional representation of those same U.S. grape growers and their U.S. Grapevine Nursery partners toward nationally important priorities. This will be the first time in the United States’ long history of growing grapes to have nationally raised industry monies supporting research that can increase our competitive advantage and improve our sustainability through grapevine genetic improvement.

Improving our planting materials genetics has the potential to make our grapevines:

- more pest and disease resistant; requiring less pesticides applications

- more water efficient; preserving this precious resource
- more adaptable to mechanization; increasing our production efficiency.

In summary, [insert organization name] is pleased to join other State and regional grape industry groups in supporting the American Grapevine Genetics Research Initiative.

Sincerely,

[signature]

[first name, last name]

Title]