



August 18, 2020

Mr. Edoe Agbodjan
Acting Associate Extension Administrator
SC State University
1890 Research & Extension
300 College Street NE
Orangeburg, SC 29117

Dear Mr. Agbodjan:

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Palmetto AgriBusiness Council (PABC) to fully endorse and strongly support the follow up grant proposal submitted by SC State University (SCSU) 1890 Research and Extension Agriculture, Natural Resource and the Environment Program to the Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement (OPPE), USDA. The 1890 Research and Extension Grant entitled "Partnership for Building Capacity for Socially Disadvantaged, Underserved and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers" would enable the 1890 ANR program to reach numerous socially disadvantaged, underserved, and veteran farmers and ranchers in South Carolina. As collaborators on this three-year Project, we will assist with training programs targeted towards socially disadvantaged, underserved, and veteran farmers and ranchers across the regions served by SC State University 1890 Research and Extension.

The socially disadvantaged, underserved, and veteran farmers and ranchers are an important component to the South Carolina agriculture industry, and the survival of these farms and farming communities is critical. Therefore, the need for further outreach and technical assistance is essential to preserve and promote the success of the socially disadvantaged, underserved, and veteran family farms.

Helping socially disadvantaged, underserved, and veteran farmers and ranchers in these rural counties in South Carolina enhance and improve their farming enterprise and retention will increase the likelihood of their survival. The personal interaction of these farmers with local Extension Associates as designed in the project has the potential of creating long-lasting relationships that will be mutually beneficial.

We look forward to working with you and actively participating in the proposed project and pledge our full support. Please feel free to contact me at 803-256-9099.

Sincerely,

Ronald L. Summers
CEO

Palmetto AgriBusiness Council

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