



June 13, 2025

Dr. Christopher Philips
National Program Leader
USDA-NIFA

Dear Dr. Philips:

The Biological Products Industry Alliance (BPIA) is writing to express its strong support for the IR-4 Project and to affirm the importance of continued, robust funding for the program in the upcoming four-year grant cycle. As a key stakeholder in the biologicals sector, BPIA recognizes the critical role IR-4 plays in advancing the development, regulatory approval, and adoption of biological crop protection tools that promote sustainable agriculture in the United States.

BPIA is the leading voice for companies advancing innovation in biological solutions for pest management, crop enhancement, and sustainable agriculture. Our membership includes more than 175 companies—ranging from small businesses to multinational organizations—employing thousands of workers in research, manufacturing, distribution, and support services across the United States.

The biologicals industry continues to be one of the fastest-growing sectors in agriculture, contributing significantly to the U.S. economy. This sector supports thousands of jobs across the nation and provides critical tools for sustainable farming and pest management. BPIA's membership includes a broad spectrum of companies with a footprint in every state, and the U.S. biopesticide market alone exceeded \$2 billion in 2023—with projections indicating it could double by 2030. As demand grows for effective, lower-risk crop inputs that promote soil health, reduce environmental impact, and support integrated pest management, biological products play an increasingly essential role. These tools not only enhance agricultural productivity but also contribute to public health and environmental stewardship. It is essential to maintain U.S. leadership in the biologicals space to remain globally competitive and ensure that our agricultural systems are resilient, sustainable, and science-driven.

For decades, the IR-4 Project has been instrumental in assisting our industry in securing regulatory approvals and promoting grower adoption of biopesticides. While biological products continue to increase their commercial footprint globally and have become a

larger share of the product portfolio for major, multinational synthetic pesticide companies, almost every biological product on the market today had its beginning at a public research agency—such as USDA-ARS or a land-grant university—or a small start-up company. In most cases, the IR-4 Project was directly involved in supporting these products at an early stage, either by assisting companies in securing USEPA registrations or conducting field trials to determine and demonstrate the most efficacious use of biological products.

More recently, the IR-4 Project has developed an Integrated Solutions Program that conducts field research on how best to integrate biological products into industry-standard synthetic pesticide IPM programs. This program seeks to introduce biologicals into conventional IPM programs where key synthetic pesticides face regulatory or market-based restrictions due to human health or environmental concerns, pest resistance, or global trade restrictions, with the goal of extending the resilience and market-life of conventional IPM programs. The Integrated Solutions Program is certainly an important tool in meeting the current Administration's stated goals—under the Making America Healthy Again Initiative—of supporting agriculture while improving public health and environmental safety.

The Biological Products Industry Alliance offers its full support for the continued, and full, funding—as cited in Congressional appropriations—of the IR-4 Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith J. Jones". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Keith J. Jones
Executive Director