



**NATGA**<sup>TM</sup>  
North American Truffle Growers' Association

North American Truffle Growers Association  
PO Box 621  
Fletcher, NC 28732-0621  
[www.trufflegrowers.com](http://www.trufflegrowers.com)

Mark Coleman, Ph.D  
Professor of Forestry  
Department of Forest, Rangeland and Fire Sciences  
University of Idaho  
975 Perimeter Drive MS 1133  
Moscow, ID 83844-1133

Dear Mark:

On behalf of the North American Truffle Growers Association (NATGA), I am sending you this letter in support of your proposed research grant, Truffle Research and Production Initiative (TRAPI), developed in accordance with the USDA's Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI). The truffle growing industry of North America desperately needs a planning grant that will enable your research team to develop a strategy to apply for future funding focused on applied questions of enhancing truffle production.

NATGA was established in 2005 as a nonprofit organization to serve as a focal point where truffle growers could share ideas and learn of the latest truffle research. As a nonprofit association, NATGA's mission is both education and research. In 2019 NATGA began offering its members Webinars that offer an excellent opportunity to solicit input from members and to share important new truffle research initiatives. For these reasons, NATGA strongly supports your proposed research grant to develop a research strategy that will support improved truffle production across the US and Canada.

NATGA is focused on supporting truffle research and has recently developed a Research Task Force with the goal to liaise with the academic research community to facilitate collaboration between scientists and NATGA-member cultivators. Our counterparts in Europe and Australia have had great success partnering with researchers, universities, and government agencies to secure funding to develop proven best practices on truffle farming. It would be incredibly beneficial to offer our members well researched and scientifically proven best practice guidelines developed by US researchers.

NATGA strongly encourages the efforts of your research team. NATGA officers and members are ready to provide any necessary input and any additional support for the funding of the project that might be beneficial.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Passafaro". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Karen Passafaro  
President  
North American Truffle Growers Association  
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