Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3218

June 5th, 2017

Dr. Timothy Kurt
Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research
401 9th St NW Suite 620
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Dr. Kurt:

I write in support of Cornell University's application for grant funding through the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research's Rapid Outcomes for Agricultural Research Program to combat the spread of the allium leafminer in the United States.
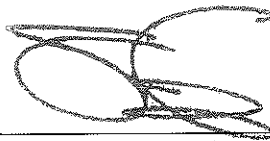
Long a pest in Europe, allium leafminer larvae will feed on leaves and developing bulbs, causing significant damage to the crop and extensive monetary losses. The risk they pose to American farmers is real. In my district alone, an allium leafminer infestation would hurt farms that bring in hundreds of millions of dollars to the local economy. Moreover, there would be myriad impacts on the food supply chain.

Investing in effective management techniques is absolutely critical to stopping this problem before it spreads. The ROAR program is the ideal vehicle to do just that. That's why I ask you to invest in Cornell University's recent grant application. Their effort will ensure we have experts in impacted states, particularly New York and Pennsylvania, working to protect American agriculture.

In May of 2017, I had the chance to speak with United States Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue about this exact problem. I greatly appreciate that he expressed a commitment to work with me to solve it. Investing in this vital research immediately will help contain this problem before it can spread, benefitting not only American farmers, but the American people, in the process.

Thank you for your attention to this issue. Please let me know if there is any additional information I can provide.

Sincerely,

Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress