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Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
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Director Jess Byrne:

The University of Idaho (UI) is strongly committed and supportive of the Idaho Gem State Air Quality Initiative and its pursuit for continued implementation grant funding through the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) Program. We are encouraged to see such a great opportunity to leverage the structure and partnership in our current Idaho Agricultural and Marketing Partnership (IAMP) USDA funded climate-smart grant and extend this great work to the commodities and agricultural systems beyond the current scope of IAMP. Specifically, we see great opportunities to incorporate the onion, oilseed, dry beans, mint, corn, alfalfa, vineyard markets and the dairy and sheep industries that are not directly included in the current IAMP project as well as extend opportunities to the remaining agricultural commodities that were not able to participate in IAMP due to the limited funding. UI is committed to continue to build and lead the extensive partnership network initiated with IAMP including The Nature Conservancy, Idaho Associated of Soil Conservation Districts, Desert Mountain Grassfed Beef, Nez Perce Tribe, and Coeur d'Alene Tribe and anticipate further growth with other partnerships through the GSAQI. We see these projects as fundamental to the land-grant mission of this institution as much our focus will be training and building capacity in these partners so that they have the skills and talents needed to work directly with growers on developing long-term cropping plans and strategies that make their businesses economically viable while also making and contributing to the reduced impact on climate change. The data and information collected on these farms will also help advance research and science to improve agriculture and provide confidence of the direct impacts of alternative cropping practices on reducing carbon emissions.

We support the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality's efforts and urge EPA to give full and fair consideration to their application.

Sincerely,



Chris Nomura
Vice President of Research and Economic Development