

**NEED**

Northeast Extension Directors



File

**NERA**

Northeastern Regional  
Association of State Agricultural  
Experiment Station Directors

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October 20, 2014

To: Dr. Christopher W. Callahan  
Assistant Extension Professor of Agricultural Engineering  
UVM Extension  
1 Scale Ave, Suite 55  
Rutland, VT 05701

From: Dr. Rick Rhodes III and Dr. Tim Phipps  
Chair – NEED                      Chair - NERA

Re: Toward a Regional Postharvest Research and Extension Center for the Northeast  
[Proposal #2014-2]

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Thank you for submitting your proposal for the 2014-2015 Joint NEED and NERA Planning Grant Program.

We are pleased to inform you that your proposal has been selected for funding. The Joint Review Committee, composed of Northeast Extension and Research Directors, that reviewed your proposal gave the following comments –

- An important issue
- Good grower involvement but other stakeholder support can be strengthened
- Team can accomplish goals
- Forward looking
- Research component could be better defined
- Potential to go to NIFA with reasonable success and likely to get funded
- Needed within the industry
- Realistic timetable

When submitting your proposal for competitive funding, please note the comments above on stakeholder support and the research component. We believe that strengthening these aspects on your proposal will greatly enhance your chance of winning a grant. Good luck!

Funding up to the requested amount of \$3,996.00 will be available for support of travel and meeting expenses. Please contact Dr. Nancy Bull at <nancy.bull@uconn.edu> before any commitment of funds are made. You will have until October 30, 2015, to expend these funds.

Please keep us posted of your team's progress in your submissions for federal and other competitive funding programs. A written report is required at the end of the grant period.

Thank you once again and please notify your team members of this decision.