



January 5, 2015

Dear Friend,

The International Fruit Tree Association (IFTA) is an international grower association that promotes the education of tree fruit growers concerning adoption of new production technologies. Our main emphasis is on planting and training new orchards. The NC-140 research project tests new and promising rootstocks tree fruit growers are eager to plant but rely heavily on good non-bias rootstock research. This NC-140 multi-state project evaluates new rootstocks on a wide scale basis and thus quickly discovers the strengths and weaknesses before grower invest their time and money into new highly expensive planting. It provides growers with vital research information to make proper selection of rootstocks. It in my opinion is the finest tree-fruit testing project we have had for many years.

I understand that NC-140 project is being considered for the Excellence in Multistate Research Award. I believe this is exactly what NC-140 is, "Excellence". I greatly encourage you to select this project for that award. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phil Schwallier', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Phil Schwallier
IFTA President