



12647 Olive Boulevard, Suite 410, St. Louis, MO 63141 • PHONE: (314) 576-1770

August 25, 2022

Dear Drs. Ahrens, Finkenstadt, and Nahar:

On behalf of the American Soybean Association (ASA), I am writing to support the USDA Bioproducts Pilot Program application entitled "Scale-up of soybean oil-based thermoplastic products for sustainable asphalt pavements" led by Dr. Hernandez of Soylei Innovations, LLC with the support of Iowa State University (ISU) and the National Center for Asphalt Technology at Auburn University.

ASA represents approximately 500,000 American soybean farmers on domestic and international policy issues important to the soybean industry and has 26 affiliated state associations representing 30 soybean-producing states. American soybean growers have long been committed to producing the world's food, feed, fuel, and thousands of bioproducts in sustainable and climate-smart ways.

Soy bioproducts are made with ingredients grown on American family farms, thanks to the versatile chemical composition of soybeans. Unlike fossil fuel-based feedstocks, soybeans capture carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. They also fix their own nitrogen for energy, limiting chemical-based fertilizer applications. And more soybean anchorage in the U.S. uses conservation tillage, which disturbs less soil, reduces fuel use, and helps sequester carbon on cropland. End users continue to increase demand for sustainably produced products, and soy growers are ready to help deliver manufactured products with environmental benefits including lower greenhouse gas emissions, reduced energy costs, lower volatile organic compounds, reduced exposure to toxic chemicals by workers, credits toward LEED certification of some finished products, and reduced processing costs and environmental compliance fees.

ASA has long supported ISU soybean research and the development of the ISU technology from which Soylei was established. Soylei's soybean-based platform of asphalt bioproducts and their potential to revolutionize the paving market currently served predominately by petrochemical materials. Soy-based asphalts have the potential to create new markets and repair millions of miles of roads across the country, especially in areas populated by traditionally underserved communities. This is especially important in rural areas where high quality transportation infrastructure is crucial for moving soybeans from farms to market.

The new asphalt products proposed in this application are expected to have environmental benefits stemming from improved pavement lifetimes and recyclability. Soy-based asphalts have the potential to create new markets and repair millions of miles of roads across the country. Selection of the application by Soylei will surely bring new value-added uses for agricultural products which are fundamental for the prosperity of underserved communities and the agricultural industries in the U.S.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brad Doyle". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Brad Doyle
President