**Project Title: Soil and plant microbiomes: A foundational database for environmental health**

**Project Manager Qualifications and Organization Description:**

Dr. Linda Kinkel is well-positioned to provide a leadership role to the development of the Minnesota soil and plant microbiome database project. Her research focuses on soil and plant microbiomes and their relationships to plant productivity in agricultural and prairie ecosystems. Her work integrates diverse ‘omics approaches to build our understanding of the factors that mediate the capacities of soil microbiomes to increase plant productivity, reduce use of pesticides in agriculture, and enhance nutrient cycling. She is a national leader in the Phytobiomes Initiative, which emphasizes inclusion of microbiome knowledge for creating sustainable food production systems. She organized and led an international workshop on Agricultural Microbiomes in August of 2018 that brought together over 150 scientists from public and private sectors. She represented the US at the European Plant Microbiome workshop in February 2016, and was a lead author of the white paper resulting from that workshop. In addition, she was a participant in both the September, 2015 White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) workshop on Microbiomes, and the OSTP May, 2016 Microbiome Initiative kickoff event at the White House. Dr. Kinkel’s research program has been funded by diverse groups, including grants from the NSF, USDA-NIFA, MDA, LCCMR, MAES, and local commodity groups. She has previous experience managing large budgets within her own program, as well as budgets spanning multiple research groups or units. Her work has been published in a wide array of outlets, spanning high quality basic and applied science journals, and has been highlighted in publications ranging from Bioscience to Modern Farmer.

Dr. Kinkel will serve as project coordinator, working with collaborators at the University of Minnesota, and the IAA to conduct the project, as well as the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Drs. Philip Pardey and Kevin Silverstein, with the UM IAA, will manage database development and incorporation of the Minnesota microbiome data into the IAA. Dr. Kinkel has sought and will continue to seek funding from other funding entities (e.g. USDA, UM Grand Challenges) to expand the integration of microbiome datasets across Minnesota and Minnesota and nationally.

**University of Minnesota** – The University of Minnesota is a land-grant institution of higher education, and ENRTF funding granted for this project would be managed by the University of Minnesota.