



**BCFGA Research and
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To Whom It May Concern

Dear Sirs/Madams:

Re: Composting in South Okanagan Regional District

The BC Fruit Growers' Association supports the effort of the Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen to establish a facility for the composting of food waste. The project will, if successful, reduce apple and cherry culls and disposal at the landfill and make a valuable soil amendment. This soil amendment increases carbon sequestration in soil, as well as improving soil fertility.

The tree fruit packers in the regional district area will have apples and cherries which do not meet commercial standards, or are otherwise not suitable for human consumption. Sometimes, fruit infested with disease or insect pests needs to be removed from the orchard, and composting is a safe way of disposing of such material. It is superior to compost, compared to landfill, in order to reduce the spread of plant disease and insect pests. The surplus tree fruit makes an excellent addition to the composting material, being rich in nitrogen, sugars, and having a high water content.

The BC Fruit Growers Association represents 420 commercial tree fruit producers in BC, located primarily in the Okanagan-Similkameen-Creston Valleys. We are looking forward to the initiation and reports on progress of this important project.

Sincerely

Glen Lucas. P. Ag.
General Manager