

To: Daniel Zawacki
From: Dylan Montgomery, Founder & Technical Lead, Fruitful Network Development LLC
Date: February 3, 2026
Subject: Qualifications & Readiness of Fruitful Network Development LLC for Applied Technical Work

This memorandum outlines my qualifications and the readiness of my company, Fruitful Network Development LLC (FND), as an appropriate recipient of the USDA's SBIR applied technical funding and support, under topic 8.6: Rural & Community Development. Rather than seeking an internship or traditional employment position, I am advancing a technically grounded venture that integrates engineering practice, applied mathematics, and community-based system design.

I am a senior majoring in Computer Engineering and Applied Mathematics at the University of Akron. Over the past four years, I have independently designed, implemented, and tested a modular software and data framework intended to address coordination and logistics failures in small and mid-sized agricultural networks. This work extends beyond coursework and reflects sustained applied engineering practice: translating theory into deployable systems, iterating through failure, and validating assumptions through real users rather than hypothetical models.

Fruitful Network Development originated through structured customer discovery, including placing third in the University of Akron's regional I-Corps pitch competition. Following I-Corps, I formally established Fruitful Network Development LLC, obtained an EIN, business banking, and completed federal registration through SAM.gov and Grants.gov. I have since begun prototyping the platform with early adopters, including local farms and nonprofit agricultural organizations. My work includes providing hosting, development, and operational tooling for organizations such as The Trapp Family Farm, Greenfield Berry Farm, and the Cuyahoga Valley Conservancy.

In parallel, I collaborate with the OSU Extension's Northeast Ohio Agricultural Innovation Office and maintain ongoing relationships with local farmers' bureaus and agricultural unions. These partnerships inform both the technical requirements and the constraints under which the system must operate. They also ensure that the technology is grounded in practical workflows, regulatory realities, and community-scale economics.

The company structure provides continuity, accountability, and a mechanism for managing risk and iteration; capabilities that exceed what could be accomplished through an individual internship or short-term placement. Fruitful Network Development represents a technically rigorous, applied engineering effort with validated users, established operational infrastructure, and clear execution capacity. My background and the company's existing work position FND as a credible recipient of applied technical support.

Respectfully,
Dylan Montgomery