

# The need for more sustainable rubber

Natural rubber is essential for the U.S. economy and national security because it provides performance characteristics not available from synthetic, petroleum-derived rubber. The U.S. is totally dependent on natural rubber imported from Asia, increasing our nation's exposure to geopolitical and market volatility. Concentration of production in any region creates risks for global markets and creates geopolitical dynamics with the potential to affect strategic interests of the United States, Europe and other developed countries.

The clear solution to this market need is a new rubber industry based on sustainable biobased materials which will provide high quality, domestically-grown rubber. Domestic horticulture of Rubber Dandelion (*Taraxacum kok-saghyz*) has demonstrated its potential as an alternative source of natural rubber. Domestic supply will significantly simplify the supply chain, lower cost, provide competitive leverage and address a continuing strategic need identified as critical for our national security.

## Rubber Dandelion's Sustainable and Resilient Value Chain

