

August 11, 2011

RE: Affirmation for University of Utah 40% Energy Standard for STARS Innovation Credit

To whom it may concern:

It is with great pleasure that I endorse and affirm the University of Utah Standard for Energy Efficiency in new buildings as a STARS innovation credit.

The standard is extraordinary and unique in the sense that it is one of the most aggressive energy standards for new construction in the state and region. Although LEED addresses energy in an indirect way (one of many paths for selecting and obtaining credits), the final results do not necessarily result in a high level of energy performance.

Consequently, the “40% better than code” was adopted last June (2010) to ensure our new buildings reflect our campus culture of significantly reducing greenhouse gases according to our Climate Action Plan. Having the requirement included in the Campus Design Standard has already produced results in two new buildings under design by demonstrating that energy reduction is a priority and equal to other important design criteria.

Sincerely,



**Myron Willson, AIA, LEED-AP**

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