



February 21, 2018

Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
1536 Wynkoop Street, Suite 100
Denver, CO 80202

Re: University of Virginia Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) Report

Dear AASHE STARS Steering Committee:

On behalf of the University of Virginia and at the recommendation of the University Committee on Sustainability, I am pleased to endorse our submission to the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS). Advancing sustainability in higher education is, like many other activities, a process of continual improvement. The STARS framework offers an effective tool to measure and report on progress toward our goals. As a long-time member of AASHE and a charter member of STARS, we are committed to both the overarching goal of advancing sustainability at the University of Virginia and the more focused effort of contributing our experiences and learning to the further development of STARS.

The past three years since our second STARS submission have seen the University undertake numerous actions to advance sustainability, including the launch of UVA's Sustainability Plan, Greenhouse Gas Reduction plan, a commitment to two large utility-scale solar projects, the creation of a new Environmental Resilience Institute, extensive collaboration via dozens of committees and working groups, and many more initiatives. Our latest submission to STARS represents another significant achievement in this vein and is the result of a pan-University effort.

I appreciate that AASHE recognizes the critical importance of learning and research in advancing sustainability in higher education. I would like to acknowledge STARS team of faculty, staff and students who contributed to this submission and worked together to gather a large amount of disparate information from all corners of our campus, and to confirm that an internal review process was conducted to ensure accuracy of the information. These efforts, along with the day-to-day commitments to sustainable practices of hundreds in the UVA community, make me particularly proud of our momentum toward a sustainable future.

Very truly yours,

Teresa A. Sullivan
President