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Dear AASHE STARS Committee:

The University of Florida has accepted the responsibility to meet the challenges of sustainability, which include integrating the goals of ecological protection, economic development, and social equity into its operations and education. As an institution of higher learning, we play a leading role in training the scientific, social, and cultural leaders who will make a difference in the world. Whether the world is a better place for future generations is, in no small part, a function of the knowledge and skills we impart to our students and the values they develop in their years on our campus.

For more than a decade, the University of Florida has been expanding its commitment to sustainability. From a grassroots effort to develop departmental green teams to implementing an Office of Sustainability, UF has realized the benefits of integrating the values of sustainability into institutional culture and practice.

The path to sustainability requires critical thinking, a proactive approach, and collaboration. The Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System (STARS) program provides an excellent frame work to measure our success. It helps benchmark our institution, challenging us to learn from our peers and continue on our journey.

I am pleased to affirm that the University of Florida's submission for the AASHE STARS is an accurate representation of our campus sustainability initiatives. We are proud to be a charter participant in this comprehensive and transparent benchmark for North American institutions of higher education.

Sincerely,



J. Bernard Machen