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March 23, 2015

AASHE
1536 Wynkoop St. B500
Denver, CO 80202

Re: Colorado State University STARS 2.0 report submission

To whom it may concern:

Colorado State University proudly submits this Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System report to the Association for Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education. Colorado State University's STARS 2.0 rating is 85.29, a platinum designation. We are pleased that, to our knowledge, this is the highest submitted STARS score to date and the first-ever submission to reach the platinum threshold.

Colorado State University's achievements and innovations in sustainability are guided by its heritage as a land-grant institution. Since the creation of Colorado State as a land-grant university, it has been guided by its three-part mission: education, research and extension. Colorado State was founded as the Colorado Agricultural College in 1870. Since then, our University has been working to expand understanding of our environment and the impact we have upon it. Colorado State's leadership in environmental research has grown from early crop testing for performance in high-altitude environments. Today, Colorado State conducts extensive research to advance our collective understanding of key areas such as weather, climate, forestry, air quality, water quality, and natural sciences.

Colorado State's School of Global Environmental Sustainability (SoGES) is an umbrella organization that encompasses all environmental education and research at Colorado State University. The school positions CSU to address the multiple challenges to global sustainability through broad-based research, curricular programs, and outreach initiatives. The school's emphases include food security, environmental institutions and governance, sustainable communities, land and water resources, biodiversity, conservation and management, climate change and energy. The mission of SoGES incorporates a long history of environmental studies that have been part of the University curriculum for decades.

Colorado State University is proud to serve as a leader in both the research and practice of environmental sustainability. Our students drive us and inspire us every day to play a critical role in not just understanding the environment, but teaching new ways that people and organizations can incorporate sustainable environmental practices. Understanding and practice are two critical areas for environmental sustainability, and Colorado State is proud to be part of that conversation.

I am confident our score accurately represents the sustainability efforts and values of Colorado State. The report has been vetted by a cross-campus review board and we believe it is a fair and comprehensive assessment of our progress to date. This STARS report builds upon nearly a century and a half of environmental research at Colorado State. It also reflects a strong commitment to advancing understanding of sustainability and human impact on our global environment, maintaining a strong commitment to sustainable construction and operations on our campus, and – most important – providing an academic environment in which students are able to learn the importance of sustainability and develop a lasting personal commitment to it.

I thank AASHE for its leadership in creating a thoughtful, reflective avenue for quantifying sustainability performance across the board for institutions of higher education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Frank", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr. Tony Frank
President