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February 7, 2017

AASHE
2401 Walnut Street
Suite 102
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Re: Colorado State University STARS 2.1 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 provisional STARS 2.1 rating is 85.84, a platinum designation. We are pleased to be once again submitting a provisional STARS platinum rating.

Through Colorado State University's 2.0 submission, which earned the first-ever platinum STARS designation, our University demonstrated how its 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 to today's extensive research to advance our collective understanding of key areas such as weather, climate, forestry, air quality, water quality, natural sciences, and environmental justice.

Achieving the platinum designation has helped our campus move forward toward even greater levels of sustainability. Through our President's Sustainability Committee, we have created a Sustainability Strategic Plan. The University in November 2015 was named to the prestigious Platinum Bicycle Friendly University list by the League of American Bicyclists, one of only five such institutions nationwide to receive this honor. Colorado State is the first university to climb directly from Silver to Platinum, skipping Gold, in its quest for top recognition for supporting biking on campus. In April 2016, The University Facility Fee Advisory Board voted to expand the Housing & Dining Services foothills composting operation to accommodate all food and landscape waste from the University. Colorado State also in 2016 joined the Green Sports Alliance.

Proudly, on January 25, 2017, Colorado State committed to a goal of powering the university with 100 percent renewable electricity by 2030. The university is already using electricity from renewable sources, with 13 solar arrays installed on all campuses. These arrays provide more than 10 million kWh

per year, or the equivalent of providing electricity for more than 1,150 homes in Fort Collins. This pledge makes long-term sense for Colorado State. In 2016, electricity generation accounted for more than 50 percent of the greenhouse gas emissions for the main, Foothills, and South campuses. Electricity costs are projected to increase from the current \$12 million each year to more than \$30 million in 20 years, if the University does not make a change to more renewable sources. Colorado State's Climate Action Plan, originally adopted in 2010, also committed the university to climate neutrality by 2050. By committing to renewable electricity, we can both shield the institution from the future higher cost for electricity as well as help advance us toward our goal of climate neutrality.

Colorado State's School of Global Environmental Sustainability (SoGES) remains 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 work.

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.

Thanks to 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, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr. Tony Frank
President