

April 22, 2015

Mr. Andrew Horning
Graham Sustainability Institute
University of Michigan
625 E. Liberty Street, Suite 300
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Dear Mr. Horning:

I am writing to affirm my support of the University of Michigan (U-M) Dow Sustainability Fellows program as a novel offering that is worthy of an AASHE STARS Innovation credit. The program is a new and innovative solution to sustainability challenges and demonstrates sustainability leadership in new and extraordinary ways.

Having served in executive leadership positions in the academic and NGO sectors, I've seen numerous fellowship programs related to sustainability. However, U-M's Dow Fellows program is unique in that it spans multiple academic levels (masters, professional degree, doctoral and postdoctoral). The program is also innovative in that it delivers an intensive cohort-based experience where fellows from countless disciplines work with, challenge, and learn from one another both within and across cohorts. Finally, the program provides opportunities for fellows from a diverse array of fields to work together and receive up to \$50,000 in additional support to execute applied sustainability projects with impact.

The U-M Dow Sustainability Fellows program has set a high bar for other universities to emulate and it is truly innovative in both approach and impact.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul R. Portney". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Paul Portney, Ph.D.
Dean Emeritus and Professor Emeritus, University of Arizona
President Emeritus, Resources for the Future