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April 27, 2012

To Whom it May Concern:

**RE: RRC Innovation Credit #2 Application**

I writing to affirm that the Red River College's application for a STARS Innovation Credit for its *Parabolic Trough Concentrating Solar Power Technology Assessment and Demonstration* meets the criteria established by ASSHE.

There is a need to address the negative environmental impacts associated with the extraction, transportation and use of conventional energy sources, especially fossil fuels. This leading to a sharp increase in the desire to examine the feasibility of using clean, renewable energy sources including several types of solar technologies.

Parabolic solar troughs, which concentrate sunlight to heat a thermal fluid, are a proven technology in some climates. Although parabolic solar troughs have certain advantages over other types of solar collectors, this technology has not been deployed in cold northern climates due to uncertainties about its performance and operational challenges.

The parabolic solar troughs at RRC's main campus in Winnipeg represent the first major installation of this technology at a post-secondary institution in Canada. The monitoring of the performance of this system will yield valuable insights to both policymakers and industry about the potential applications and limits of this technology in cold northern climates.

Please feel free to contact me if you require any additional information.

Sincerely,



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