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March 30, 2017

Meghan Fay Zahniser  
Executive Director  
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education  
2401 Walnut Street Suite 102  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Ms. Zahniser:

I am pleased to submit this letter in support of Smith College's submission to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) Sustainability Tracking, Rating & Assessment System (STARS). Our report, which has been assembled by and reviewed for accuracy by staff from Smith's Office of Campus Sustainability, demonstrates our commitment to sustainability across all levels of the institution.

Our STARS report highlights a number of innovations and achievements:

- The college completed a new strategic plan, *Lives of Distinction and Purpose: A Plan for Smith*, which identifies five themes to guide the college. The theme of *complex, urgent problems* articulates the value of integrating operational sustainability with the educational mission and specifically points to the role of campus as a classroom to do this.
- The college's Study Group on Climate Change completed a yearlong, campus-wide examination of how Smith, as an educational institution and a residential college, could most effectively respond to the challenge of global climate change. The group reaffirmed the college's commitment to being carbon neutral by 2030. In addition, the group issued a report that articulates a comprehensive approach to sustainability across the institution.
- Smith opened the nation's first dedicated gluten-free dining hall to continue to provide the student body with healthy meals and community dining experiences.
- We are piloting a Community Climate Fund to invest in local activities that would reduce GHG emissions – for example, making a local non-profit organization's buildings more energy-efficient. Programs like this will enable us to offset our greenhouse gas emissions while benefiting the local community.

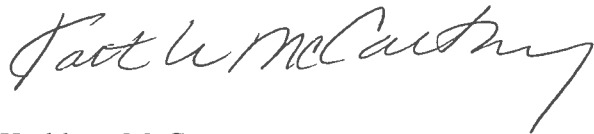
As Smith continues to implement its strategic plan and the recommendations from the Study Group on Climate Change, we will use the STARS process to monitor progress toward our sustainability and climate change mitigation goals as well as to highlight Smith's environmental

performance, to develop sustainable policies and practices, and to turn plans into action.

Finally, I am pleased to note that last fall we welcomed Monica Dean as administrative director of Smith's Jill Ker Conway Innovation & Entrepreneurship Center. Under Monica's leadership the center will support creative thinking, problem solving, interdisciplinary teamwork and development of business and entrepreneurial skills - the very skills that are central to addressing the challenge of sustainability, and which I know will make Monica an asset to the AASHE board.

I am grateful to the many students, faculty, staff and alumnae who help us advance Smith's sustainability goals, and to our partnership with AASHE.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathleen McCartney". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Kathleen McCartney  
President