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August 3, 2016

Dear STARS Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Northwestern Sustainability Fund that was created to provide greater access to funding for student-led sustainability and energy projects. This fund is an essential way to encourage students to pursue inventive solutions to sustainability issues, and I have seen this powerfully demonstrated through my role as the Faculty Director of the House by Northwestern.

House by Northwestern (HBN) is the University's first-ever entry to the Department of Energy Solar Decathlon and will be constructed in 2017 to compete against 13 other collegiate teams from around the world (October 2017, Denver, CO). Students at Northwestern are currently designing a solar-powered house (2 bed, 2 bath; 1000 sqft) that will blend technology, market potential, and design excellence with smart energy production and maximum efficiency. This project is currently the largest grant recipient of the Northwestern Sustainability Fund to date, and aspires to be the most impactful. The team's goal is to deliver a house that is 90% more energy efficient than the average home in Evanston, and we would not be able to do that without the support (10 full-time student summer interns) from the Northwestern Sustainability Fund.

Once the solar house returns from competition, it will remain a residential unit and be an invaluable piece of both the Northwestern and Evanston communities. The house, a model for energy efficiency and design excellence, will act as a bridge between Northwestern University and the City of Evanston by serving as a hub for public demonstration, education, and engagement. Students and community members alike will be able to experience first-hand what is possible in sustainable living and energy efficient engineering today.

Based on my direct involvement with this project and what I've seen with previous projects supported by the Northwestern Sustainability Fund, this Fund is a critical catalyst for sustainability innovations that benefit the Northwestern community. This fund ensures that students are able to adhere to the commitment to sustainability that the university has made, and strive to create a more sustainable world.

Sincerely,



Dick Co, Ph.D.
Faculty Director, House by Northwestern