

February 29, 2017

Ms. 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:

It is my pleasure to write this letter in support of our 2017 Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) report prepared by the Hope College Sustainability Advisory Committee.

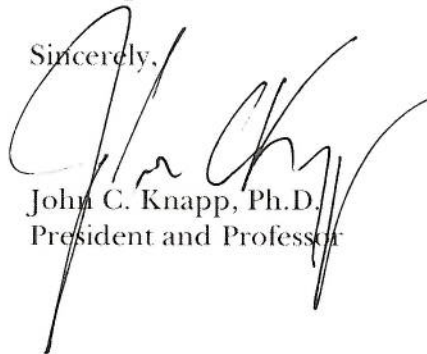
Hope College has been committed to implementing sustainable practices for a number of years. Retrofitting light fixtures for energy efficiency; increasing our recycling and composting for diversion of materials from landfills; installing smart irrigation systems that allow for significant reductions in water use; and being awarded LEED Silver Certification for our Jack H. Miller Center for the Musical Arts are just a few examples of Hope College embracing responsible stewardship of our environment.

Much of our work at Hope is motivated by our identity as a liberal arts college *in the context of the historic Christian faith*, as stated in our Mission. We believe that our Christian faith calls each of us to care for all of God's creation.

The Hope College community respects and cares about our environment and the methods and materials we use in construction and on-going maintenance. Construction of our new student center is nearing completion, and we will be seeking LEED Certification for this new building as well. We are committed to the conscientious stewardship of our earth, including critically examining our consumption habits and advocating for an ecologically just world.

Please accept the attached STARS report from Hope College documenting our progress toward creating a more sustainable community, and thank you for your continued work with AASHE.

Sincerely,



John C. Knapp, Ph.D.
President and Professor