Penn
Facilities & Real Estate Services

3101 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6289

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To Whom It May Concern,

I'm writing to affirm the value and innovative nature of the Shoemaker Green project on Penn's campus for this STARS report. Formerly the site of several aging tennis courts, the 2.75 acre Green now has 103 newly planted trees, a large open lawn, paths, and other site amenities for use by the Penn community. The site incorporates several sustainable elements, such as LED lighting, native plantings, and reclaimed native hardwood used in the onsite benches. Additionally, the Green's drainage system incorporates a large rain garden to retain stormwater before it floods into a 20,000 gallon storage tank, where the water can be reused for the Green's irrigation.

Because of Shoemaker Green's array of sustainable systems, the site was selected as a pilot project for the Sustainable Sites Initiative (SITES), which is analogous to the US Green Building Council's LEED building certification ratings system, and was recently certified with two stars. The SITES benchmarks require considerations for water, soil and vegetation, materials selection, and human health and well-being in regards to each project yielding ecological benefits.

SITES projects such as Shoemaker Green illustrate that our landscapes can be more productive spaces. By incorporating sustainable strategies in site design and construction, we can mitigate urban heat island effects, lessen the stormwater impacts of development on our waterways and water use, and cut down on carbon emissions related to construction materials manufacturing and transportation, all of which contribute to a healthier outdoor realm that we live in. As such, Shoemaker Green demonstrates Penn's commitment to not just green building, but a holistically sustainable design and construction approach that includes the entire site.

Sincerely,
Robert Lundgren

Robert Lundgren
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