JAMES MADISON
U N I V E R S I T Y ®

January 24, 2022

Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)
2401 Walnut Street, Suite 102
Philadelphia, PA 19103

RE: James Madison University (JMU) Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) Report

Dear AASHE STARS Steering Committee,

At the recommendation of JMU's Institute for Stewardship of the Natural World (ISNW) Executive Council, I am pleased to endorse our January 2022 submission to STARS. The ISNW led development of the report, which is JMU's fourth STARS submission, based on the Institute's role of coordinating the collaborative efforts of JMU to pursue environmental stewardship and sustainability, and a broader sense of citizenship.

Many individual and institutional commitments made it possible to continue the work of advancing sustainability despite the challenges of the global pandemic. Further, over 100 people contributed to measuring and documenting JMU's sustainability performance, including representatives from Facilities Management and the Office of Access & Inclusion, who wrote large sections of the report. JMU's sustainability efforts, as reflected in the report, are aligned with JMU's Strategic Priority #1 –Being the Change at Work and in the World, which states, "We will be an innovative engine powering student lifelong learning and providing the skill sets and solutions that education, business, government and other constituents have come to expect from JMU as we are truly being the change." Three initiatives were selected to illustrate JMU's leadership for sustainability – Valley Scholars, Ethical Reasoning in Action, and the East Campus Hillside Project – as described in the report under "Points of Distinction."

Our participation in STARS has facilitated benchmarking, transparency, and recognition. We appreciate AASHE's efforts to organize the framework and assure data accuracy. I look forward to JMU's and AASHE's continued progress toward our common goal of a sustainable future.

Sincerely,

Jonathan R. Alger
President