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AASHE STARS Committee
The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
213 ½ North Limestone
Lexington, KY 40507

Dear Committee Members:

The Pennsylvania State University is very pleased to be among the Charter Participants in the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS). Sustainability is an integral part of Penn State's mission as a global leader in teaching, research and service. We recognize that sustainability represents one of the nation's most pressing issues, and higher education can play a unique role in modeling solutions and producing graduates who can lead society in this new direction.

Penn State contributes to the global sustainability effort every day. Consider just a few examples of Penn State green initiatives.

- At University Park we recycle or compost 59 percent of our waste. That means we keep over 8,000 tons of waste out of landfills, which makes good environmental and economic sense. This effort saves Penn State nearly half a million dollars each year.
- Penn State now has 53 employee Green Teams, over 800 people getting their work space "Green Paws Certified", over 50 centers and institutes dedicated to sustainability-focused research, and thousands of students studying and initiating sustainability-focused projects in their communities.
- Finally, Penn State has cut electricity consumption 7 percent over the last five years, even though we have added additional building space. The cost savings from all energy conservation investments is nearly \$5 million annually.

I commend AASHE for providing a comprehensive, transparent assessment tool for higher education, and I confirm the accuracy of all the submitted information. Thank you for allowing us to share our story and strengths, identify areas for growth, and learn from others toward meeting the sustainability challenge.

Sincerely,

Graham B. Spanier