

February 15, 2016

Dear STARS Steering Committee:

It is a pleasure for me to write this letter of endorsement to accompany the Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System (STARS) questionnaire for Calvin College. It has been through a thorough review by our staff and Environmental Stewardship Committee and is a good assessment of our current level of activities.

Calvin College has long been a supporter of sustainability efforts as a demonstration of our care for creation and our commitment to be good stewards of that creation which has been entrusted to us. The college has two key governing documents that reflect that commitment: in 2007 the Calvin College Board of Trustees approved a "Statement of Sustainability," which provides a foundation for our sustainability work; the college strategic plan, approved in 2014, highlights sustainability goals for our educational framework, scholarly agenda and operational practices.

More recently the college commissioned and received a report from Second Nature that highlights the strengths of the college's work on sustainability and also provides direction for areas where we can improve. In response we have chartered a task force responsible for better integrating our sustainability work across the college and making our commitments more systemic across the organization. We want to be certain that our commitments are more than mere platitudes and we want to make measurable progress toward our sustainability goals. That task force will be using the Second Nature report and data from the STARS assessment to this end.

We look forward to the future with continued efforts toward sustainability. We are grateful to AASHE and the STARS questionnaire for providing a structure for improving and measuring sustainability efforts on our campus and beyond. Thank you for the opportunity to be accountable for what we have done and to help guide us in our future work.

Sincerely,



Michael K. Le Roy
President