



**Sherwood G. Wilson, Ph.D.**  
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October 10, 2014

STARS Steering Committee  
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)  
213 North Limestone  
Lexington, KY 40507

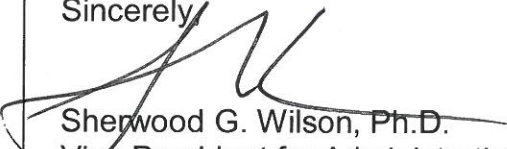
SUBJECT: Campus Forest Management: Protecting Stadium Woods STARS Letter of Affirmation – Innovation Credit

Dear AASHE STARS Steering Committee,

This letter is to affirm the innovation credit “Campus Forest Management: Protecting Stadium Woods.” In 2012 at the request of President Steger, I initiated an ad hoc committee to explore the challenges stemming from a proposal to locate an athletic facility in an old growth forest remnant on campus. The committee was comprised of members of the community representing a diverse array of interests, which provided a unique approach for fact-finding and deliberation to explore innovative solutions. By consensus, the committee recommended that the facility be relocated so as not to impact the forest remnant and that a management plan be prepared for the 14-acre woods. I forwarded that recommendation to the President which he accepted. The facility is now being constructed in a location that will not impact the woods and a management planning effort for the location is underway.

I have reviewed the list of criteria for innovation credits and I attest that this clearly warrants designation as an innovative credit under STARS.

Sincerely,



Sherwood G. Wilson, Ph.D.  
Vice President for Administration

*Invent the Future*



**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Sherwood Wilson, Ph.D.

**THRU:** Chris Kiwus, PE, Ph.D. *CHK*

**FROM:** Jason P. Soileau

**DATE:** October 1, 2014

**SUBJECT:** STARS Letter of Affirmation: Campus Forest Management - Protecting Stadium Woods

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Attached is a draft STARS Letter of Affirmation for an “innovation credit” for your signature which describes the University’s actions to protect the Stadium Woods, specifically as it relates to the site selection process for the Athletic Practice Facility. For additional information, the actual innovation credit submission is also attached (details are on page 3). This innovation credit was brought to our attention by Dr. John Randolph, and is a key component to our anticipated “Gold” status with our Fall 2014 STARS submission.

This credit discusses the challenges faced by the University from the potential location of an athletic facility in an old growth forest remnant on campus. The credit identifies the innovative use of a committee, consisting of a diverse community representing all interests, to provide a unique approach for fact-finding and deliberation in order to explore innovative solutions. The consensus based solution to avoid impacting the forest remnant by relocating the facility reflects a position sustainable resolution.

It is our goal to resubmit for STARS by October 10, 2014. Thank you for your consideration.