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February 2, 2023

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

Re: Northern Michigan University STARS Submission

Dear STARS Steering Committee Members,

Northern Michigan University is more aware of how resources are used and reused than ever before. We continue to improve in our efforts to identify and support sustainability opportunities across our institution. Northern states in its university's core values that we want to make the Anishinaabe tradition of seeing responsibility to plan for sustainability seven generations into the future a Northern tradition. As such, it is my honor to endorse our Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System Report submission and affirm that it accurately reflects NMU's sustainability initiatives and progress to date.

Since the creation of Northern's Sustainability Advisory Council in 2016, the University has emphasized these areas: institutionalizing sustainability, cultivating sustainability leadership, investing in energy innovations, promoting sustainable transportation, and purchasing local foods to support local farms. This has led to expanded efforts in course curricula, waste reduction in our dining services, energy savings on our physical campus, new events for improved campus and community engagement, and sustainability consideration in university decision-making.

Two examples of work that the University community has taken great pride in accomplishing since our last STARS report are moving the SHINE Hub (a sustainability center) from an idea to an established campus unit, and fully implementing the "green fee," for funding student-driven sustainability initiatives.

Northern's current strategic plan includes being "Builders of a Culture of Sustainability" with the specific goal to "enhance and grow sustainability efforts and education throughout the planning, operations, education, research and service aspects of our University." Driven by our campus community's passion regarding sustainability, I am pleased by our ongoing work in this area and I'm excited about our ideas and goals for continuing progress and achievements.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brock Tessman, President
Northern Michigan University