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Attention selection Committee of EPA P3 Project

This letter is sent as in support of, and as a commitment to participate in, Phase II of the EPA P3 project, by Tim Gray and John Motloch, entitled "Enhanced Sustainability through Straw-Bale Construction: Education-Research Building Demonstrating How to Live Sustainably in the Midwest". This is an extremely important and timely project. I highly encourage you to select it for Phase II funding that includes construction of the project's systems that integrate with site-based live-cycle flows.

Our firm, The Center for Maximum Potential Building Systems, has a long history in nearly all facets of the Sustainability field from instructional manuals in the water catchment and waste water treatment areas to policy having established city, state, and regional guidelines including the first Green Builder program in the United States. As research fellow at our Center John Motloch has been instrumental in working and advising us for a good part of our history particularly in our relationship to how key concepts in sustainability work with communities and educational groups can have trigger effects far beyond the project itself.

As indicated in the original proposal, the project builds on the seminal work of the Center in the area of Ecobalance Design™. It builds upon the model developed in 2001 by the project Co-PI Dr. Motloch, based on our work. It also serves as the pilot project to implement the resource-balance site management system proposed in 2003 by Dr. Motloch as a first generation ecobalance site management model. Most importantly, it implements a learning module that can trigger a shift in design education to Ecobalance Design™. I look forward to working with the project Co-PIs on the Ecobalance Design™ aspects of this project in its Phase II.

The project is extremely timely as an ecobalance design project that "plugs into" the resource-balancing management system for the University's near-campus field site. As a built-site learning module integrated internally and with its contextual systems, the project will play a major role in moving Ball State University's sustainability leadership to the next level by serving as an ecobalance design lab that not only promotes carbon-neutral design, but looks beyond carbon to address resource balance management and ecobalance design.

I highly encourage you to select this project for Phase II funding . We are at a time in human history where such programs are needed across the board in our society and this one has the potential for spreading, as some would say, a green virus across our landscape.

Thank You for your consideration

Pliny Fisk III

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