



April 13, 2021

Dr. Lamin E. Drammeh  
Director of Strategic Initiatives, Evaluation, and Engagement  
SC State University  
1890 Research & Extension  
300 College Street NE  
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Orangeburg, SC 29117

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Dear Dr. Drammeh:

On behalf of the Palmetto AgriBusiness Council, it is with great pleasure that I write this letter in support of South Carolina State University's "Concept Note" for the construction of a solar energy system designed to power its community garden as well as its innovative research and demonstration farm located in Olar, South Carolina. I humbly request that the proposed Concept Note submitted to the Office of Representative James E. Clyburn for funding consideration through the Community Project be given the highest consideration.

The funding will enable the construction of timely and essential resources which will effectively improve the operations of the facility. Solar energy is an unobtrusive and effective way of producing clean, renewable energy. Research shows solar energy can reduce exorbitant operational costs associated with conventional energy-sourced power while reducing carbon emissions. Every dollar saved can be invested back into developing research activities and programs to further educate the farmers and youth of South Carolina on modern agricultural technologies and innovation. South Carolina State University's vision for the farm is fully aligned with Palmetto AgriBusiness Council's goals to attract agricultural innovation and growth and believe the potential this farm offers will bring to fruition our collective goals.

The proposed Concept Note project entitled "**Solar Energy to Power Community Garden and Agricultural Research Facility At the SCSU-1890 Research and Demonstration Farm**" enhances a strategic institutional capacity. The resulting benefits will demonstrate self-reliance along with pollution, fuel, and electricity costs reduction to the geographical area and citizens of South Carolina. We strongly encourage you to fund this project.

For these reasons, the Palmetto AgriBusiness Council fully supports this Concept Note. We believe it will have a meaningful and sustainable impact on our communities. If you require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Ronald L. Summers  
Chief Executive Officer