



BRUCE RAUNER, GOVERNOR  
RAYMOND POE, DIRECTOR

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**Office of the Director**

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May 1, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

The Illinois Department of Agriculture has reviewed the goals and purposes of the program entitled "Saving Tomorrow's Agriculture Resources" or S.T.A.R. We have found the program's goals to be very consistent with that of the Department. Specifically, the Department is supportive of programs and projects that further the appropriate stewardship of agricultural resources including crop production inputs like nutrients. Programs such as S.T.A.R. further enhance the proper stewardship of our land and water resources and can make a positive difference to producers as they struggle to add value to their farming operations and demonstrate their willingness to try new things and make positive impacts. The S.T.A.R. program is well suited to help accomplish this mission.

The S.T.A.R. program provides farmers and farmland owners with an evaluation of their production practices to help them reduce nutrient and soil losses and is consistent with the goals and objectives of the State's Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy. We believe this program can provide a solid foundation for the future of Illinois agriculture. Through its objectives and goals, S.T.A.R. inspires farmers and farmland owners to enhance their farming practices that produce food, fiber, and fuel with minimal impact on the environment. S.T.A.R. is not only an easy to use and economical tool for participants to evaluate their practices, it is a model that can be replicated in many geographic locations both inside and outside of Illinois.

As a result, this letter serves as a formal endorsement of the S.T.A.R. program by the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Raymond Poe", is written over a printed name and title. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R".

Raymond Poe  
Director  
Illinois Department of Agriculture