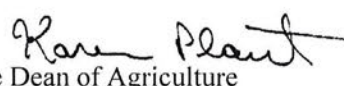


OFFICE OF THE DEAN

*Karen Plaut**Glenn W. Sample Dean of Agriculture*

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Jay Akridge  
Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Diversity

FROM: Karen Plaut   
Glenn W. Sample Dean of Agriculture

DATE: June 30, 2020

SUBJECT: Dean's Chair in Remote Sensing

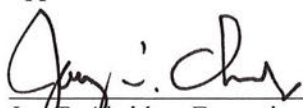
I am pleased to recommend Dr. Songlin Fei, Professor of Forestry and Natural Resources, for appointment as the Dean's Chair in Remote Sensing. Dr. Fei's strength in quantitative ecology specializing in forest and invasion ecology, and geospatial analytics makes him a great candidate for this chaired position.

He uses remote sensing extensively throughout his research, primarily focusing on the development of tools/algorithms in analyzing multi-platform, multi-sensor, and multi-scale remote sensing data in ecological research. His lab has pioneered multiple fronts in the application of remote sensing in large-scale ecology and forestry studies, such as the use of aerial images to map invasive plants, the use of low-resolution LiDAR (light detection and ranging) data for individual tree recognition, and the use of LiDAR data to measure structural diversity.

Dr. Fei leads the integrated Digital Forestry (iDiF) initiative, which is centered on remote sensing and data science. The overarching goals of the iDiF initiative are: (1) to revolutionize forestry with an effective digital system for precision forest management that maximizes the social, economic, and ecological benefits of urban and rural forests, and (2) to build a globally competitive next generation workforce for the information age. This multi-disciplinary research team involving over a dozen faculty from seven departments and across several colleges will help to place Purdue as the national and global leader of remote sensing in forest and natural resources.

Attached you will find Dr. Songlin Fei's recommendation letter from Dr. Bernie Engel on behalf of the remote sensing chair review committee, full CV, support letters and abbreviated CV. I hope that you will agree that Dr. Fei is worthy of this distinction and that you will in turn recommend him to the Board of Trustees for the Dean's Chair in Remote Sensing.

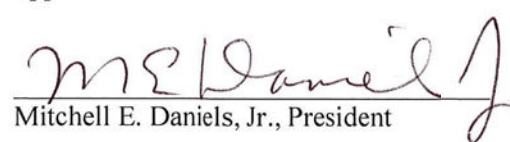
Thank you for your consideration.

*Approved:*

Jay T. Akridge, Executive Vice President for  
Academic Affairs and Diversity

7/7/20

Date

*Approved:*

Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., President

7/14/20

Date