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Recommended Citation

Ormseth, Eamon and Dolezal, Shelby Ryann, "SB19-12/13: Ballot Initiative 166" (2012). *Senate Resolutions, 2007-Present*. 66.

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1 **The Associated Students of The University of Montana**
2 **Resolution Regarding Ballot Initiative 166**
3 **October 10, 2012**
4 **SB19-12/13**

5 **Authored by: Eamon Ormseth and Shelby Ryann Dolezal, ASUM Senators**
6 **Sponsored by: Zach Brown, ASUM President; Micah Nielsen, ASUM Business Manager;**
7 **Alexandra Rich, ASUM Senator; Rebecca Boslough, ASUM Senator; Topher Williams, ASUM**
8 **Senator**

9
10 Whereas, in 2010, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of Citizens United in the case Citizens
11 United v. Federal Elections Commission;

12
13 Whereas, said ruling eliminated limits as well as disclosure requirements for indirect corporate
14 expenditures in elections;

15
16 Whereas, Montana has a proud history of limiting corporate spending in our elections for over
17 100 years;

18
19 Whereas, in 1912, Montana passed the Corrupt Practices Act, keeping corporations from making
20 political donations to campaigns in the state;

21
22 Whereas, the Supreme Court, in the case American Tradition Partnership, Inc. v. Bullock,
23 reversed the Montana Supreme Court Decision Western Tradition Partnership, Inc. v. Attorney
24 General of Montana, thereby striking down the Montana Corrupt Practices Act of 1912;

25
26 Whereas, both Governor Brian Schweitzer and Lieutenant Governor John Bohlinger signed and
27 endorsed this initiative in the spring of 2012;

28
29 Whereas, corporations and shareholders who contribute to Montana elections are not necessarily
30 based in Montana and are capable of unduly influencing Montana elections;

31
32 Whereas, Ballot Initiative 166 supports that corporations should not be considered people and
33 should not have the right to spend unlimited amounts of undisclosed money in Montana
34 elections;

35
36 Therefore, Let It Be Resolved that The Associated Students of The University of Montana
37 endorse Ballot Initiative 166.

38
39
40
41 Passed by Committee: _____, 2012

42
43 Passed by Senate: _____, 2012

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45
46
47 _____
48 Damara Simpson,
49 Relations and Affairs Chair

Bryn Hagfors,
Chair of the Senate