Fall 2012

SB19-12/13: Ballot Initiative 166

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

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

Whereas, in 2010, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of Citizens United in the case Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission;
Whereas, said ruling eliminated limits as well as disclosure requirements for indirect corporate expenditures in elections;
Whereas, Montana has a proud history of limiting corporate spending in our elections for over 100 years;
Whereas, in 1912, Montana passed the Corrupt Practices Act, keeping corporations from making political donations to campaigns in the state;
Whereas, the Supreme Court, in the case American Tradition Partnership, Inc. v. Bullock, reversed the Montana Supreme Court Decision Western Tradition Partnership, Inc. v. Attorney General of Montana, thereby striking down the Montana Corrupt Practices Act of 1912;
Whereas, both Governor Brian Schweitzer and Lieutenant Governor John Bohlinger signed and endorsed this initiative in the spring of 2012;
Whereas, corporations and shareholders who contribute to Montana elections are not necessarily based in Montana and are capable of unduly influencing Montana elections;
Whereas, Ballot Initiative 166 supports that corporations should not be considered people and should not have the right to spend unlimited amounts of undisclosed money in Montana elections;

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

Passed by Committee: __________________________, 2012
Passed by Senate: _____________________________, 2012

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Damara Simpson, Bryn Hagfors,
Relations and Affairs Chair Chair of the Senate