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SB42-12/13: LC1849

Eamon Ormseth

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Ormseth, Eamon, "SB42-12/13: LC1849" (2013). *Senate Resolutions, 2007-Present*. 86.
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1 **The Associated Students of The University of Montana**
2 **Resolution Regarding LC1849**
3 **January 30, 2013**
4 **SB42-12/13**

5 **Authored by: Eamon Ormseth, ASUM Senator**

6 **Sponsored by: Zach Brown, ASUM President; Asa Hohman, ASUM Lobbyist; Katherine Brady;**
7 **ASUM Renter Center Director**

8
9 Whereas, The Associated Students of The University of Montana (ASUM) represents over
10 15,000 students;

11
12 Whereas, over 10,000 students at The University of Montana rent housing in and around the
13 Missoula community;

14
15 Whereas, 75% of first-year students move off-campus after their first year.

16
17 Whereas, since September 2011 the ASUM Off-Campus Renter Center has seen 28 students
18 specifically to address unsafe rental conditions;

19
20 Whereas, in this same period of time, the ASUM Off-Campus Renter Center has helped a
21 significant number of other renters address unsafe living conditions in their rentals;

22
23 Whereas, the vacancy rate in Missoula is approximately 3%;

24
25 Whereas, low vacancy rates lead to a reduced need for landlords to provide quality living
26 conditions for renters;

27
28 Whereas, quality living conditions are important for the health and safety of renters;

29
30 Whereas, the ASUM Off-Campus Renter Center's website supports new legislation to revise the
31 Montana Residential Tenant and Landlord Act to further protect renters.

32
33 Whereas, LC1849 would authorize municipalities to ensure compliance, through inspection, with
34 existing state building codes, as enumerated in the Montana Residential Tenant and Landlord
35 Act.

36
37 Whereas, compliance with existing building codes is an integral part of providing quality living
38 conditions and ensuring the health and safety of renters.

39
40 Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, that The Associated Students of The University of Montana
41 support the passage of the bill that LC1849 will become;

42
43 Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, that a copy of this resolution be sent to Representative
44 Tom Steenberg, sponsor; Senator Jackson, Chair of the Senate Committee on Business, Labor,
45 and Economic Affairs; Senator Essmann, Senate President; Kevin McRae, MUS Lobbyist; Asa
46 Hohman, ASUM Lobbyist; and Bill Johnston, University of Montana lobbyist, when LC1849
47 becomes a bill.

48

49 Passed by Committee: _____, 2013

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52 Passed by ASUM Senate: _____, 2013

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57 _____
58 Damara Simpson,
Relations and Affairs Chair

Bryn Hagfors,
Chair of the Senate