SB08-10/11: MontPIRG Fee Collection

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The Associated Students of The University of Montana
Resolution Regarding MontPIRG Fee Collection

December 8, 2010
Senate Bill SB8-10/11
Authored by: Jenifer Gursky, ASUM Senator
Sponsored by: Luke Sims, ASUM Senator and Ashleen Williams, ASUM President

Whereas the non-profit MontPIRG is a Public Interest Research Group chapter that currently operates at The University of Montana;

Whereas the mission statement of MontPIRG holds substantial language pertaining to educating the public, but it lacks a clear student-oriented message outlining regarding the benefit The University of Montana and its students receive from its placement on campus;

Whereas the ASUM Business Manager has asked for financial documents, including line-item expenditures, and has yet to receive such documents;

Whereas MontPIRG has not pursued financial transparency in concerns with the student body’s governing body, ASUM;

Whereas MontPIRG’s fee assessment to the student body is $5 per semester, per student ($2.50 per student, per summer session) with the option of students attaining a refund, but only with the student aggressively actively pursuing such an avenue;

Whereas ASUM, the representative body for students, has no direct oversight of refundable, yet mandatory, student fees collected by MontPIRG;

Therefore, Let It Be Resolved that the Associated Students of the University Montana (ASUM) endorse and support an Opt-Out Fee as it concerns MontPIRG fee;

Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved that ASUM, at the end of 2011 Spring Semester, calls MontPIRG for an audit of all student fees collected and expended to be presented by the last ASUM Senate meeting. That ASUM, at the end of the 2011 Spring Semester, calls for MontPIRG to account for its funds in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and utilize effective and efficient internal control. Accountability of student fees must be provided in an audit review or management review conducted by an independent CPA.

Passed by Committee: ____________________________, 2010

Passed by ASUM Senate: ____________________________, 2010

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Travis Suzuki, Amanda Stovall,
Relations and Affairs Chair Chair of the Senate