SB22-08/09: Creation of an Online Registry for Mold Documentation

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Whereas, the majority of students at the University of Montana live off campus and rent privately from property management companies or independent landlords;

Whereas, housing costs contribute greatly to the overall cost a student pays to attend college;

Whereas, ASUM has a vested interest in promoting renter safety;

Whereas, according to the 2007 US Census population estimate Montana has 372,000 occupied housing units, 113,000, (30 percent) of which are renter occupied;

Whereas, rent is calculated to include the cost of property taxes paid on a residence;

Whereas, renters contribute approximately $785,124,000 to the Montana economy, and help fund state and local government;

Whereas, certain kinds of mold have been proven to be detrimental to human health and exposure to them can cause respiratory illness, infection and even death;

Whereas, the Mold Disclosure Act of 2003 grants protection from liability if the landlord discloses information about mold prior to the creation of a lease;

Whereas, no registry currently exists to verify the accuracy of a landlord’s statements;

Therefore Let It Be Resolved that ASUM supports legislation that creates an online registry to document the presence of mold in rental properties.

Therefore Let It Be Further Resolved that ASUM encourages the Missoula legislative delegation to support these legislative efforts in the 2009 session.

Therefore Let It Be Further Resolved that a copy of this resolution be sent to members of the Missoula legislative delegation.

Passed by Committee: _________________________, 2008

Passed by Senate: _____________________________, 2008

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Andrew Dusek, Siri Smillie,
Relations and Affairs Chair Chair of the Senate