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The Associated Students of The University of Montana
Resolution Regarding the MontPIRG Fee
April 22, 2009
Senate Bill SB57-08/09
Authored by: Trevor Hunter, ASUM President

Whereas, the ASUM Constitution allows for a mandatory student referendum regarding the implementation of a new student fee if 5% of ASUM membership sign a petition;

Whereas, MontPIRG met the requirement in spring 2009 through a petition drive;

Whereas, if 12% of those eligible vote in the spring 2009 election and referendum process, and a majority vote for the establishment of the MontPIRG fee, the question will then be presented to the Montana Board of Regents for final approval;

Whereas, this resolution and corresponding referendum language in no way represents a positive endorsement from ASUM, as this question was presented to the Senate on April 15, 2009 and failed decisively on a 17-3 vote to not allow for the establishment of the fee;

Therefore, Let It Be Resolved that the following language be placed on the spring ballot for a student vote:

MontPIRG

MontPIRG (Montana Student Public Interest Research Group) is a statewide, student-directed, non-profit, non-partisan organization. MontPIRG gives students a vital out of the classroom learning experience to act on the problems they see in the world by allowing students to pool their resources with students across the state and country to make our voices stronger and to hire a staff of professionals to work with students on issues that concern us as citizens. A \$5 per student, per semester, "opt-out" fee would allow students to pool their resources together and hire professional staff to work with students on issues that concern us as citizens.

_____ Yes, I support the establishment of a \$5 per semester, per student, "opt-out" fee for MontPIRG.

_____ No, I do not support the establishment of a \$5 per semester, per student, "opt-out" fee for MontPIRG.

Passed by Committee: _____, 2009

Passed by Senate: _____, 2009

Andrew Dusek,
Relations and Affairs Chair

Siri Smillie,
Chair of the Senate