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SB89-14/15: Resolution Regarding Take Back the Tap

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1 **The Associated Students of the University of Montana**
2 **Resolution Regarding Take Back the Tap**
3 **April 15, 2015**
4 **SB89-14/15**

5 **Authored by: Gillian Ellison, Student**
6 **Sponsored by: Sean McQuillan, ASUM Vice President**
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10 Whereas, the University of Montana has had a long history of advocating environmental
11 and sustainable responsibility;

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13 Whereas, The Climate Action Plan states that “Leaders of the University of Montana
14 recognize humanity is impacting our climate and are committed to taking action”;

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16 Whereas, the University of Montana’s waste reduction pledge states “Consume less!” and
17 “Avoid products with excessive packaging” as ways of supporting the University of
18 Montana’s sustainability goals and initiatives;

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20 Whereas, the Montana Department of Environmental Quality revised it’s Integrated
21 Waste Management Plan, in 2006, and set a target of reducing Montana’s solid waste
22 going into landfills and incinerators by 22% by 2015;

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24 Whereas, UM estimated it would divert 18% of its waste from landfills for 2015, but has
25 a goal of diverting 25%;

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27 Whereas, The University of Montana’s 2007 Greenhouse Gas Inventory estimated the
28 UM send over 2200 tons of solid waste to the landfill every year, generating an estimated
29 574 Metric Tons of CO2 annually;

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31 Whereas, University of Montana consumes more than 30, 000 single-use water bottles
32 per year;

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34 Whereas, U.S. plastic water bottle production requires between 32 and 54 million gallons
35 of oil, and three out of every four of those bottles end up in landfills or in an incinerator;

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37 Whereas, public tap water is safe and is significantly more affordable and accessible, and
38 environmentally sustainable than bottled water;

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40 Whereas, universities and colleges around the country, including Chico State, UC
41 Berkeley, Sarah Lawrence, Vassar, Smith College, Washington University, Oregon State,
42 Seattle University and many others have already made efforts campus wide to curb
43 their bottled water use;

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45 Therefore, let it be resolved, that Associated Students of the University of Montana
46 (ASUM) will strongly discourage the use of University of Montana funds to purchase
47 single-serving bottles of water;

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Therefore, let it be further resolved, that ASUM will encourage the utilization of refillable containers at its facilities and functions;

Therefore, let it be further resolved, that ASUM will support efforts to educate the campus community regarding the value and benefits of using Missoula's water system for all its water needs;

Therefore, let it be further resolved, that ASUM will not purchase or distribute bottled water at ASUM events, and will replace bottled water, whenever appropriate, with tap water;

Therefore, let it be further resolved, that ASUM supports the efforts of the Take Back the Tap Campaign in eliminating bottled water from the University's Coca Cola contract when it is renewed in 2016;

Passed by Committee:

Passed by ASUM Senate: _____, 2015

Sarah Smith,
Chair of Relations & Affairs

Sean McQuillan,
Chair of the Senate