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### SB15-15/16: Resolution Regarding Solar Panel Covered Parking

Samuel Forstag

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1                                   **The Associated Students of The University of Montana**  
2                                   **Resolution Regarding Solar Panel Covered Parking**  
3   **October 14, 2015**  
4   **SB15-15/16**

5   **Authored by: Samuel K. Forstag**  
6                                   **Sponsored by: Samuel K. Forstag, Pierce Frazier, Jared Halvorson**  
7

8       Whereas, President George M. Dennison signed the American College and University  
9       Presidents' Climate Commitment in 2007, committing the University of Montana to  
10      develop an institutional climate action plan to become climate neutral;

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12      Whereas, the University of Montana's 2010 Climate Action Plan sets forth the ambitious  
13      goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2020;

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15      Whereas, the Climate Commitment includes recommendations to explore a large-scale  
16      renewable energy project to offset purchased electricity on the University of Montana  
17      mountain campus;

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19      Whereas, the solar panel covered parking project is a large-scale renewable energy  
20      project that would provide about 10% of the University of Montana's annual electrical  
21      needs for the next 40 years;

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23      Whereas, the University of Montana will be reimbursed the entirety of its initial  
24      investment by Western Renewable Energy if the project is brought to fruition;

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26      Whereas, in addition to this reimbursement, this project would provide the University  
27      with \$6-8 million in savings over the next 40 years;

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29      Whereas, the University's investment in a project development package would render an  
30      ultimate financial return of approximately 1,300% - 1,600%;

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32      Whereas, this investment would provide the University with a financial rate of return that  
33      far exceeds that offered by continued retrofitting efforts;

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35      Whereas, the Solar Investment Tax Credit (Solar ITC), which would account for much of  
36      the incentive for any potential investor, is set to expire at the end of 2016;

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38      Therefore, Let It Be Resolved that the Associated Students of the University of Montana  
39      (ASUM) endorses the solar panel covered parking project;

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41      Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved that ASUM requests that said project be brought  
42      before the Board of Regents as an action item at their upcoming meeting on November  
43      19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>;

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45      Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved that ASUM encourages the University of Montana  
46      administration to pursue a feasibility study to bring the solar panel covered parking  
47      project to the next phase;

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Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved that this resolution be sent to Royce Engstrom, President of UM; Clayton Christian, Commissioner of Higher Education; Paul Tuss, BOR Chair; Fran M. Albrecht, Vice Chair of BOR; William Johnstone, Regent; Robert A Nystuen, Regent; Martha Sheehy, Regent; Asa Hohman, Student Regent; Bill Borrie, Chair of Faculty Senate; John Deboer, Chair-Elect of FSB15aculty Senate; and Eva Rocke, UM Sustainability Director.

Passed by Committee: \_\_\_\_\_, 2015

Passed by ASUM Senate: \_\_\_\_\_, 2015

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kaitlin Hopingardner  
Chair, Relations & Affairs

\_\_\_\_\_  
Betsy Story  
Chair of the Senate