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SB54-16/17: Resolution for a Revenue Enhancement Regarding Beer and Wine

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The Associated Students of the University of Montana
Resolution for a Revenue Enhancement Regarding Beer and Wine
January 31, 2017
SB54-16/17
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Sponsored by:

Whereas, the Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) represents the interests of over 12,000 students at the University of Montana (UM);

Whereas, The Montana Legislature has proposed $25 million in cuts to the Montana University System (MUS);

Whereas, UM is already facing budget shortfalls that are significant enough to possibly require cuts to personnel and the prospect of tuition hikes;

Whereas, Due to a significant drop in state revenues, the state of Montana is facing widespread cuts to numerous state agencies and struggling to find revenue sources with which to fund many state agencies and the MUS;

Whereas, The current balance of state funding and tuition already leaves Montana students graduating college with an average of over $27,000 in student loan debt;

Whereas, Montana currently ranks 37th in the nation for state appropriations to public higher education¹;

Whereas, the inelastic nature of beer and wine products has incentivized legislative proposals aimed at increasing the state tax on beer and wine in Montana.

Whereas, an increase in the state tax on beer and wine products would bring more revenue to the State of Montana.

Whereas, the revenue generated by an increase in the state beer and wine tax could be partially allocated to the MUS, thereby decreasing the proposed $25 million cut that would fall on the backs of students.

Therefore, Let it Be Resolved that the Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) supports current legislative proposals for an increase to the state tax on beer and wine products;

Therefore, Let it Further Be Resolved that ASUM supports directing a maximal amount of this revenue toward restoring the deep cuts that have been proposed to Montana University System’s budget for FY 2017-18;

Passed by Committee: ____________________________

Passed by ASUM Senate: __________________________

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Braden Fitzgerald
SPA Committee Chair

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Elizabeth Engebretson,
Chair of the Senate

Passed by Committee: ____________________________, 2017

Passed by ASUM Senate: ____________________________, 2017