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### SB55: Resolution for a Revenue Enhancement Regarding Tobacco Products

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Ben Kuiper

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1                                   **The Associated Students of the University of Montana**  
2                                   **Resolution for a Revenue Enhancement Regarding Tobacco products**  
3                                   **January 31, 2017**  
4                                   **SB55-16/17**

5                   **Authored by: Braden Fitzgerald, ASUM Senator; Benjamin Kuiper, ASUM Senator; Sam**  
6                                   **Forstag, ASUM President**

7                                   **Sponsored by:**  
8

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

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

14  
15           Whereas, UM is already facing budget shortfalls that are significant enough to possibly require  
16           cuts to personnel and the prospect of tuition hikes;

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

21  
22           Whereas, The current balance of state funding and tuition already leaves Montana students  
23           graduating college with an average of over \$27,000 in student loan debt;

24  
25           Whereas, Montana currently ranks 37<sup>th</sup> in the nation for state appropriations to public higher  
26           education<sup>1</sup>;

27  
28           Whereas, the inelastic nature of tobacco products has incentivized legislative proposals aimed at  
29           increasing the state tax on tobacco in Montana;

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31           Whereas, an increase in the state tax on tobacco products would bring more revenue to the State  
32           of Montana;

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34           Whereas, the revenue generated by an increase in the state tobacco tax could be partially  
35           allocated to the MUS, thereby decreasing the proposed \$25 million cut that could fall on the  
36           backs of students;

37  
38           Whereas, according to the surgeon general, one of the most effective tobacco control  
39           interventions is raising the price of tobacco products;

40  
41           Therefore, Let it Be Resolved that the Associated Students of the University of Montana  
42           (ASUM) supports current legislative proposals for an increase to the state tax on tobacco  
43           products;

1 FY 2015 State Higher Education. Rep. N.p.: n.p., 2016. Web. Boon, A. (2017, January 18). RAISING CIGARETTE TAXES REDUCES  
SMOKING, ESPECIALLY AMONG KIDS. Retrieved February 7, 2017, from  
<https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/research/factsheets/pdf/0146.pdf>

44  
45 Therefore, Let it Further Be Resolved that ASUM supports directing a maximal amount of this  
46 revenue toward restoring the deep cuts that have been proposed to Montana University System's  
47 budget for FY 2017-18;

48  
49 Passed by Committee: \_\_\_\_\_

50  
51 Passed by ASUM Senate: \_\_\_\_\_

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55 \_\_\_\_\_

56 Braden Fitzgerald  
57 SPA Committee Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Elizabeth Engebretson,  
Chair of the Senate

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59  
60 Passed by Committee: \_\_\_\_\_, 2017

61  
62 Passed by ASUM Senate: \_\_\_\_\_, 2017

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