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The Associated Students of the University of Montana

Resolution Requesting Assistance and Attention to the Severe Wildfire Conditions in Montana

Authored on 9/8/2017

SB07-17/18

Authored by: Abbigail Belcher, ASUM Senator; Bailey Durnell, ASUM Senator; Canyon Hohenstein, ASUM Senator; Mariah Welch, ASUM Senator

Whereas, The Associated Students of The University of Montana (ASUM) value the environment, public lands, private property, and lives impacted by the wildfires;

Whereas, ASUM believes that all people have the right to clean air, a healthy environment, and the ability to be outdoors without suffering from the adverse effects of poor air quality;

Whereas, ASUM is grateful for the sacrifice and dedication of student, career, and volunteer firefighters from across Montana and the nation;

Whereas, ASUM is thankful for the contributions of the numerous agencies and organizations that are providing essential resources used to fight wildfires in our state, including but not limited to the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), the United States Forest Service (USFS), the National Park Services (NPS), the County Co-op, the Montana National Guard, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA);

Whereas, Even with federal assistance, Montana has depleted its $32 million dollar wildfire reserve fund and an additional $16 million dollars from emergency funds battling over a dozen major wildfires afflicting this drought-stricken state;

Whereas, Governor Steve Bullock has issued a 10% cut across all state agencies, including the Montana University System, as a result of the depletion of state funds and lack of federal funds for the fires;

Whereas, There has been little to no coverage by national news outlets of the emergency and hazardous conditions in Montana;

Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, That ASUM calls on the federal government and its agencies to adequately reimburse the costs of fighting the fires;

Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, That ASUM demands an increase in attention from national news outlets about the fires in Montana;

Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved , That this resolution be forwarded to the following people; Jon Tester, United States Senator; Steve Daines, United States Senator; Ryan Zinke, Secretary of the Interior; Brock Long, FEMA Administrator; and Donald Trump, President of the United States of America.

Passed by Committee: ______________________________, 2017

Passed by ASUM Senate: ____________________________, 2017

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Abbigail Belcher, (Chair of Student Political Action Committee)  Brenna Love (Chair of the Senate)