SB35-17/18: Resolution the 6-Mil Levy

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The Associated Students of the University of Montana
Resolution Regarding the 6-Mill Levy
2/28/18
SB35-17/18
Authored by: Abbigail Belcher, ASUM Senator; Daisy Ward, Student at Large;
Sponsored by: Henry Curtis, ASUM Senator; Mollie Lemm, ASUM Senator; Mariah Welch, ASUM Senator

Whereas, The Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) represents the interests of the students of the University of Montana (UM);

Whereas, The 6-Mill Levy has been a “primary component of University funding in Montana”¹ since 1948;

Whereas, The 6-Mill Levy has been placed on the ballot and will be voted on in November of 2018;

Whereas, The 6-Mill Levy provides about $19 million dollars per year, which is approximately 10% of the total state appropriations for higher education, amounting to around a $12 tax per year on a $100,000 house;²

Whereas, The revenues from the 6-Mill Levy “are used to directly support, maintain, and improve the Montana University System (MUS);”

Whereas, The 6-Mill Levy helps to balance the state budget overall, which eases the burden of funding for other state entities;

Whereas, Without voter approval, the 6-Mill Levy will expire and leave the MUS in need of an additional $20 million from the state general fund until at least 2028;

Whereas, Without voter approval of the 6-Mill Levy, the difference in funding necessary would require an 18% increase in student tuition;

Whereas, The 6-Mill Levy has already been endorsed by Montana Associated Students, Montana Chamber of Commerce, Montana Economic Developers Association, Montana Farm Bureau Federation, and the MEA-MFT (Montana Education Association and the Montana Federation of Teachers);

Therefore, Let it Be Resolved, That ASUM endorses the passage of the 6-Mill Levy and will strongly advocate for its approval;

Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That ASUM encourages the UM Administration to take steps to promote the passage of the 6-Mill Levy;

Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That ASUM encourages the UM Faculty and Staff Senates to support the passage of the 6 Mill Levy;

Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That ASUM encourages other student governments in the MUS to pass resolutions in support of the 6-Mill Levy;

¹ https://mus.edu/board/meetings/2017/May2017/6MillLevy.pdf
² http://missoulian.com/elections/state/mill-levy-has-strong-backing---university-property-tax/article_1e118507-68de-5145-955d-344259f3856a.html
Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That ASUM encourages other institutions in the MUS to take action in support of the 6-Mill Levy;

Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That ASUM requests the Montana Associated Students (MAS) to review and pass a similar resolution in their closest meeting following the passage and approval of this resolution;

Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That this resolution be sent to Seth Bodnar, University of Montana President; Paula Short, Director of Communications for the Office of the President; Paul Haber, President of Faculty Union; Maria Mangold, Chair of Staff Senate; Mary-Ann Bowman, Chair of Faculty Senate; Clay Christian, Commissioner of Higher Education; Kevin McCrea, OCHE; Steve Bullock, Governor of Montana; Siri Smillie, Policy Advisor for Education; Kylar Clifton, ASMSU President.

Passed by Committee: _____________________________, 2018

Passed by ASUM Senate: _________________________, 2018