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Spring 2-28-2018

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

Abbigail Belcher

Daisy Ward

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1                                   **The Associated Students of the University of Montana**  
2                                   **Resolution Regarding the 6-Mill Levy**  
3                                   **2/28/18**  
4                                   **SB35-17/18**

5                   **Authored by: Abbigail Belcher, ASUM Senator; Daisy Ward, Student at Large;**  
6                   **Sponsored by: Henry Curtis, ASUM Senator; Mollie Lemm, ASUM Senator; Mariah Welch,**  
7                   **ASUM Senator**

8  
9   Whereas, The Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) represents the interests of the  
10 students of the University of Montana (UM);

11  
12   Whereas, The 6-Mill Levy has been a “primary component of University funding in Montana”<sup>1</sup> since  
13 1948;

14  
15   Whereas, The 6-Mill Levy has been placed on the ballot and will be voted on in November of 2018;

16  
17   Whereas, The 6-Mill Levy provides about \$19 million dollars per year, which is approximately 10% of  
18 the total state appropriations for higher education, amounting to around a \$12 tax per year on a \$100,000  
19 house;<sup>2</sup>

20  
21   Whereas, The revenues from the 6-Mill Levy “are used to directly support, maintain, and improve the  
22 Montana University System (MUS);”

23  
24   Whereas, The 6-Mill Levy helps to balance the state budget overall, which eases the burden of funding  
25 for other state entities;

26  
27   Whereas, Without voter approval, the 6-Mill Levy will expire and leave the MUS in need of an additional  
28 \$20 million from the state general fund until at least 2028;

29  
30   Whereas, Without voter approval of the 6-Mill Levy, the difference in funding necessary would require  
31 an 18% increase in student tuition;

32  
33   Whereas, The 6-Mill Levy has already been endorsed by Montana Associated Students, Montana  
34 Chamber of Commerce, Montana Economic Developers Association, Montana Farm Bureau Federation,  
35 and the MEA-MFT (Montana Education Association and the Montana Federation of Teachers);

36  
37   Therefore, Let it Be Resolved, That ASUM endorses the passage of the 6-Mill Levy and will strongly  
38 advocate for its approval;

39  
40   Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That ASUM encourages the UM Administration to take steps to  
41 promote the passage of the 6-Mill Levy;

42  
43   Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That ASUM encourages the UM Faculty and Staff Senates to  
44 support the passage of the 6 Mill Levy;

45  
46   Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That ASUM encourages other student governments in the MUS to  
47 pass resolutions in support of the 6-Mill Levy;

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<sup>1</sup> <https://mus.edu/board/meetings/2017/May2017/6MillLevy.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> [http://missoulian.com/elections/state/mill-levy-has-strong-backing---university-property-tax/article\\_1e118507-68de-5145-955d-344259f3856a.html](http://missoulian.com/elections/state/mill-levy-has-strong-backing---university-property-tax/article_1e118507-68de-5145-955d-344259f3856a.html)

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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