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SB06-18/19: Resolution Regarding the Passage of the 6-Mill Levy

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1 **The Associated Students of the University of Montana**
2 **Resolution Regarding the Passage of the 6-Mill Levy**
3 **September 3rd, 2018**
4 **SB06-18/19**

5 **Authored by: Abigail Belcher, ASUM Senator; Daisy Ward, ASUM Secretary;**
6 **Sponsored by: Cierra Anderson, ASUM Senator; Sylvia Borstad, ASUM Senator; Morgan Corkish,**
7 **ASUM Senator; Katherine Cowley, ASUM Senator; Brenna Mae Davis, ASUM Senator; Taylor**
8 **Gregory, ASUM Senator; Dylan Haggart, ASUM Senator; Tom Hiatt, ASUM Senator; and James**
9 **Willmus, ASUM Senator;**

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

13
14 Whereas, The 6-Mill Levy is a Montana tradition that has been a “primary component of University
15 funding in Montana” since 1948;

16
17 Whereas, The 6-Mill Levy has been placed on the ballot and will be voted on November 6th, 2018;

18
19 Whereas, The 6-Mill Levy provides about \$20 million dollars per year to the Montana University System
20 (MUS), which is approximately 10% of the total state appropriations for higher education;

21
22 Whereas, The 6-Mill Levy is funded by a tax of \$12 per \$100,000 worth of property in the state of
23 Montana;

24
25 Whereas, Montana’s towns and cities rely on their colleges and universities for economic growth because
26 of an educated workforce and MUS-related jobs;

27
28 Whereas, The funds from the 6-Mill Levy are used to directly support, maintain, and improve the MUS;

29
30 Whereas, The 6-Mill Levy helps to balance the state budget overall, which eases the burden of funding
31 for other state entities;

32
33 Whereas, Without voter approval, the 6-Mill Levy will expire and leave the MUS in need of an additional
34 \$20 million from the state general fund until at least 2020;

35
36 Whereas, Voter support for the 6-Mill Levy has been significantly decreasing each decade, including
37 2018;

38
39 Whereas, Without voter approval of the 6-Mill Levy, the difference in funding would require a possible
40 18% increase in student tuition;

41
42 Whereas, The 6-Mill Levy has already been endorsed by Montana Associated Students, Montana
43 Chamber of Commerce, Montana Economic Developers Association, Montana Farm Bureau Federation,
44 The Montana Education Association and the Montana Federation of Teachers, Representative Greg
45 Gianforte, Senator Steve Daines, Governor Steve Bullock, and Senator Jon Tester, as well as several other
46 organizations and individuals;

47
48 Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, That ASUM endorses the passage of the 6-Mill Levy and will advocate for
49 its approval;

50

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

53

54 Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That this resolution be sent to: Clay Christian, Commissioner of
55 Higher Education; Steve Bullock, Governor of Montana; Siri Smillie, Policy Advisor for Education; and
56 Mariah Welch, President of Montana Associated Students.

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58 Passed by Committee: September 14th, 2018

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60 Passed by ASUM Senate: September 19th, 2018

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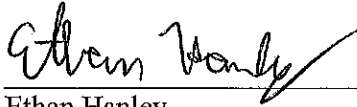
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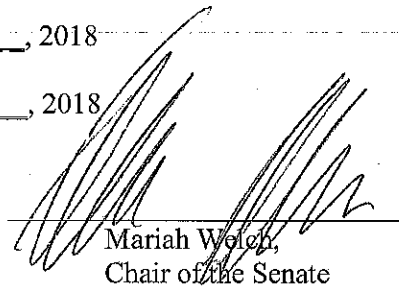
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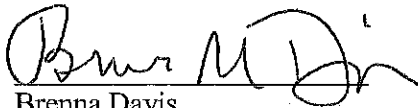
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Ethan Hanley,
Relation and Affairs Chair



Mariah Welch,
Chair of the Senate



Brenna Davis,
Student Political Action Vice Chair