SB10-18/19: Resolution Regarding the Open Space Bond and City Stewardship Levy

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The Associated Students of the University of Montana

Resolution Regarding the Open Space Bond and City Stewardship Levy

October 15th, 2018

SB10-18/19

Authored by: Morgan Corkish, ASUM Senator; Tori Koch, ASUM Senator;
Sponsored by: Sylvia Borstad, ASUM Senator; Eli Brown, ASUM Senator; Brenna Mae Davis, ASUM Senator; and Daniel Parsons, ASUM Senator;

Whereas, The passing of the Open Space Bond (OSB) would provide approximately $15 million to Missoula County for acquisitions of land and capital improvements on existing space;

Whereas, These funds may be utilized for, but are not limited to, the improvement of Clark Fork River access between the Madison Street Bridge and Higgins Street Bridge. This improvement would include the addition of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible pathways, additional riverside beaches, and revegetation for controlled river access;

Whereas, These funds may be utilized for, but are not limited to, the building of additional trail corridors throughout Missoula to provide safe access to recreational activities for citizens;

Whereas, The passing of the City Stewardship Levy (CSL) would provide approximately $500,000 a year to cover the cost of preservation for the lands and projects acquired by the OSB;

Whereas, This preservation may include, but is not limited to, the cleaning of homeless encampments, managing weed populations, improving parking structures near trailheads and water access points, as well as general trail management;

Whereas, The total cost to property owners for the joint passing of the OSB and CSL would be approximately $2.50 per month, based on the average property value in the City of Missoula;

Whereas, Missoula has historically shown support for similar initiatives, including the OSB passed in 2006 which provided $10 million in tax collections from the community, an amount that was then matched by various Missoula businesses and coalitions to total $40 million;

Whereas, The passing of the above initiatives would assist University of Montana students and faculty in upholding our mission to “partner with place” by connecting them to additional and improved outdoor recreational activities;

Therefore, Let Be Resolved, That ASUM endorses the OSB and CSL appearing on the November 6th, 2018 ballot;

Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That this resolution be sent to: Bryan von Lossberg, Hiedi West, Jordan Hess, Mirtha Becerra, Heather Harp, Gwen Jones, John DiBari, Jesse L. Ramos, Stacie M. Anderson, Julie Armstrong, Michelle Cares, and Julie Merritt, Missoula City Council Members; Seth Bodnar, President of the University of Montana; Jane Kelly, Missoula Neighborhoods Coordinator; Jean Curtiss, Cola Rowley, and David Strohmaier, Missoula County Commissioners.
Passed by Committee: ___________________________ _, 2018
Passed by ASUM Senate: __________________________, 2018

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Mariah Welch,                                Brenna Davis,
Chair of the Senate                          Vice Chair of Student Political Action