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SB63-20/21: Resolution Regarding Ballot Language for the Modification of the Sunset Provision for the MontPIRG Fee

Ethan Hanley

Kelly Armington

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1 **The Associated Students of the University of Montana**
2 **Resolution Regarding Ballot Language for the Modification of the Sunset Provision for the**
3 **MontPIRG Fee**
4 **December 4th, 2020**
5 **SB63– 20/21**

6 **Authored by: Ethan Hanley, ASUM Business Manager; Kelly Armington, MontPIRG**
7 **Board of Directors Chair;**
8

9 Whereas, Montana Public Interest Research Group (MontPIRG) is a student led organization,
10 which has advocated on behalf of students, consumers, and the environment for nearly 40 years
11 on campus;

12
13 Whereas, MontPIRG seeks to increase students' involvement in the political process through
14 registering students to vote, bringing educational items about state and federal issues to the
15 public, and promoting voter rights laws;

16
17 Whereas, MontPIRG is prioritizing improving voter rights laws, increasing funding to education
18 and renters' rights during the 2021 legislative session;

19
20 Whereas, During May of 2012, University of Montana (UM) students and the Board of Regents
21 approved an optional fee for the MontPIRG of five dollars;

22
23 Whereas, Every two years, the MontPIRG optional fee must be put up to a vote of whether or not
24 the opt-out fee will remain on students' registration bills;

25
26 Whereas, In the last three reaffirmation votes, UM students have overwhelmingly supporting the
27 continuation of the fee, never falling below 70% support;

28
29 Whereas, According to Article VI, Section 11 of the Associated Students of the University of
30 Montana (ASUM) bylaws:

31 *A. All Student-generated referendum language shall be examined by the Relations and*
32 *Affairs Committee prior to the collection of signatures, and at a date no later than six*
33 *weeks prior to the General Election;*
34

35 Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, That the language for ending the sunset provision for the
36 MontPIRG optional fee on the ballot for the 2021 ASUM election read as follows:

37
38 *The Montana Public Interest Research Group (MontPIRG) seeks to modify the sunset*
39 *provision for their optional fee. Originally approved by students in May of 2012, a*
40 *condition for MontPIRG to charge their optional fee was to show student support for*
41 *their fee at the end of every biennium. During the last three elections, support for the fee*
42 *has never dipped below 70%. MontPIRG seeks to change measuring the support of the*
43 *fee to see how many students pay the fee during the entirety of the biennium. If the*
44 *percentage of students choosing to pay over four semesters dips below 50%, it will go to*
45 *a reaffirmation vote by the student body.*
46

47 *YES, I support modifying the mandatory sunset provision and replacing it with the*
48 *alternative method of measuring support from UM Students.*

49
50 *NO, I do not support modifying the mandatory sunset provision nor replacing it with*
51 *the alternative method of measuring support from UM Students.;*

52
53 Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That this resolution be sent to: Cierra Anderson, Chair of
54 the Elections committee.

55
56
57 Passed by Committee: _____, 2021

58
59 Passed by ASUM Senate: March 3 _____, 2021

60
61
62 _____
63 Noah Durnell,
64 Chair of the Relations and Affairs Committee

Patrick James Flanagan,
Chair of the Senate