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The Associated Students of the University Of Montana

Resolution Supporting the Offset of Commuting Emissions through UMPD Parking Permit Sales

May 6, 2015

SB94-14/15

Authored by: Sum Yee Luk, Conor Ellert, James Scofield, Alex Kramer, and Noah Rott

Sponsored by: Sean McQuillan, ASUM Vice President

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

Whereas, ASUM supports a sustainable campus community for improving stewardship of the environment and embracing a responsibility to mitigate Climate Change;

Whereas, ASUM has supported many sustainability efforts including student transportation, the KRELF fund, and various campus projects and initiatives;

Whereas, in 2010, University of Montana President George Dennison signed The University of Montana (UM) Climate Action Plan which specified that UM Achieve carbon neutrality by 2020;

Whereas, University commuting emissions contribute 9% to its overall yearly carbon footprint and is an inherent part of the University’s daily operations;

Whereas, the UM Climate Action Plan outlines three strategies to achieve carbon neutrality: energy efficiency, renewable energy, and carbon offsets;

Whereas, carbon offsets are an effective method for dealing with unavoidable emissions, such as those associated with commuting;

Whereas, The University of Montana has showed interest in purchasing carbon offsets at the Campus Climate Conversation of the Fall 2014 Semester and has recently purchased carbon offsets to help us reach our 2015 emission reduction goals;

Whereas, The University of Montana Police Department manages parking permit sales and has proposed an increase in permit pricing for the coming academic year to be either affirmed or denied by the Montana University System Board of Regents May 21st and 22nd 2015;

Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, that ASUM supports the use of carbon offsets to reach our carbon neutrality goals;

Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved that, if the price increase for parking permits is approved by the Board of Regents, ASUM supports applying $3 of the price increase for yearlong permits and $1.50 of the price increase for semester-long permits to the purchase of carbon offsets;
Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved that ASUM recommends these measures by sending a copy of this resolution to Director of UMPD Marty Ludemann, President Royce Engstrom, Vice President Michael Reid, and Sustainability Coordinator Eva Rocke.

Passed by Committee:

Passed by ASUM Senate: ________________________, 2015

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Sarah Smith,                 Sean McQuillan,
Chair of Relations & Affairs  Chair of the Senate