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SB07-17/18: Wildfires in Montana

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1 **The Associated Students of the University of Montana**
2 **Resolution Requesting Assistance and Attention to the Severe Wildfire Conditions in**
3 **Montana**

4 **Authored on 9/8/2017**

5 **SB07-17/18**

6 **Authored by: Abbigail Belcher, ASUM Senator; Bailey Durnell, ASUM Senator; Canyon**
7 **Hohenstein, ASUM Senator; Mariah Welch, ASUM Senator**

8
9 Whereas, The Associated Students of The University of Montana (ASUM) value the
10 environment, public lands, private property, and lives impacted by the wildfires;

11
12 Whereas, ASUM believes that all people have the right to clean air, a healthy environment, and
13 the ability to be outdoors without suffering from the adverse effects of poor air quality;

14
15 Whereas, ASUM is grateful for the sacrifice and dedication of student, career, and volunteer
16 firefighters from across Montana and the nation;

17
18 Whereas, ASUM is thankful for the contributions of the numerous agencies and organizations
19 that are providing essential resources used to fight wildfires in our state, including but not limited
20 to the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), the United States
21 Forest Service (USFS), the National Park Services (NPS), the County Co-op, the Montana
22 National Guard, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA);

23
24 Whereas, Even with federal assistance, Montana has depleted its \$32 million dollar wildfire
25 reserve fund and an additional \$16 million dollars from emergency funds battling over a dozen
26 major wildfires afflicting this drought-stricken state;

27
28 Whereas, Governor Steve Bullock has issued a 10% cut across all state agencies, including the
29 Montana University System, as a result of the depletion of state funds and lack of federal funds
30 for the fires;

31
32 Whereas, There has been little to no coverage by national news outlets of the emergency and
33 hazardous conditions in Montana;

34
35 Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, That ASUM calls on the federal government and its agencies to
36 adequately reimburse the costs of fighting the fires;

37
38 Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, That ASUM demands an increase in attention from
39 national news outlets about the fires in Montana;

40 Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved , That this resolution be forwarded to the following
41 people; Jon Tester, United States Senator; Steve Daines, United States Senator; Ryan Zinke,
42 Secretary of the Interior; Brock Long, FEMA Administrator; and Donald Trump, President of the
43 United States of America.

44 Passed by Committee: _____, 2017

45 Passed by ASUM Senate: _____, 2017

46 _____

47 Abbigail Belcher,
48 (Chair of Student Political Action Committee)

Brenna Love
(Chair of the Senate)

49

50 [http://www.nbcmontana.com/news/wildfires/montana-asks-fema-head-to-ease-wildfire-assistance-](http://www.nbcmontana.com/news/wildfires/montana-asks-fema-head-to-ease-wildfire-assistance-requests/617653785)
51 [requests/617653785](http://www.nbcmontana.com/news/wildfires/montana-asks-fema-head-to-ease-wildfire-assistance-requests/617653785)