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SB05-09/10: Climate Change Legislation

Owen Weber

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1 **The Associated Students of the University of Montana**
2 **Resolution Regarding Climate Change Legislation**
3 **September 30, 2009**
4 **Senate Bill SB5-09/10**
5 **Authored by: Owen Weber, UM Climate Action Now!**
6 **Sponsored by: Patrick Rhea, ASUM Senator**
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9 ~~Whereas, The University of Montana has dedicated itself to reducing green house gas emissions~~
10 ~~by 80% by midcentury as laid out in the American College and University Presidents Climate~~
11 ~~Commitment;~~

12 ~~Whereas, the University of Montana aims to comply with Governor Schweitzer's 20x10 initiative~~
13 ~~pledging to reduce energy consumption 20% by 2010;~~

14 ~~Whereas, the students of the University of Montana voted to self impose an optional \$4 fee for~~
15 ~~the Revolving Energy Loan Fund to finance energy efficiency projects on campus;~~

16 ~~Whereas, the University of Montana has developed the Climate Change Studies minor to educate~~
17 ~~students about this interdisciplinary topic. As the first undergraduate program of its kind in the~~
18 ~~United States, the University is demonstrating its commitment to sustainability studies in higher~~
19 ~~education;~~

20 ~~Whereas, the University of Montana considers itself part of a community with national and~~
21 ~~international efforts to reduce carbon emissions,~~

22 ~~Whereas, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate change (IPCC), which is made up of the~~
23 ~~world's leading scientists, stated that developed countries like the United States should must~~
24 ~~reduce their green house gas (GHG) emissions by 45% of 1990 levels by 2020 and 95% below~~
25 ~~1990 by 2050. The IPCC has warned that global atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO2) levels must~~
26 ~~remain below 350 parts per million to avoid severe effects from global climate change;~~

27 ~~Whereas, the United States Congress is currently legislating the American Clean Energy and~~
28 ~~Security Act (ACES) considering climate change legislation which should set up emission~~
29 ~~reduction targets for industry;~~

30 ~~Whereas, the international community is participating in the next United National Climate~~
31 ~~Change Conference in Copenhagen is being held in December, and thus, it is crucial for the~~
32 ~~United States to show progress in order to build upon strong international agreements to reduce~~
33 ~~GHG emissions;~~

34 ~~Whereas the Clean Energy Jobs and American Power act sets forth that coal fire plants which~~
35 ~~will continue to exist must adhere to the Clean Air Act. In addition, a climate bill must also~~
36 ~~create general source standards for CO2 emissions maintaining that plants must capture 65% by~~
37 ~~2020 and 50% of CO2 emissions from now until 2020.~~

38 ~~Therefore Let It Be Resolved, that the Associated Students of The University of Montana~~
39 ~~(ASUM) call on Senator Tester and Senator Baucus calls upon the Congressional Representation~~
40 ~~of Montana, on behalf of the students of The University of Montana, recognize the need to pass~~
41 ~~science based national climate legislation prior to the international negotiations fifteenth~~
42 ~~Conference of Parties (COP-15) in Copenhagen, Denmark;~~

43 Let It Be Further Resolved that ASUM believes that the United States Senate must pass
44 legislation that will ~~cut~~ reduce carbon dioxide levels ~~emissions both immediately and~~
45 ~~substantially. This should be done by setting an aggressive cap on carbon emissions. and by~~
46 ~~auctioning 100% of the pollution allowances. This cap must reduce CO2 emissions by 45%~~
47 ~~below 1990 levels by 2020, and 95% below 1990 levels by 2050. The funds generated from said~~
48 ~~auction must be distributed in an equitably just manner;~~

49 Let It Be Further Resolved, that the climate bill must provide provisions for developing a green
50 economy. These funds would allow for the creation of a “clean energy corps” that would create
51 services, training and ~~500 millions of new jobs~~ in the emerging clean energy economy;

52 Let It Be Further Resolved, that ASUM urges the Senate to pass legislation with phase out plans
53 for ~~fossil fuel coal fire~~ power. ~~Legislation should, as of its ratification, begin phasing out the high~~
54 ~~carbon emission sources of energy, while establishing an equitable transition for workers and~~
55 ~~their communities who will be affected by these plans; Plants that will continue to exist must~~
56 ~~adhere to the Clean Air Act. A climate bill must also create General source standards for CO2~~
57 ~~emissions maintaining that plants must capture 65% by 2020 and 50% of CO2 emissions from~~
58 ~~now until 2020. Legislation should, as of its ratification, begin phasing out the coal fire power~~
59 ~~plants while establishing an equitable transition for workers and their communities who will be~~
60 ~~affected by these plans;~~

61 Let It Be Further Resolved that ASUM urges ~~Senator Tester and Senator Baucus~~ the U. S. Senate
62 to become a leaders in actively securing a clean and just energy future. ~~The United States should~~
63 ~~work with other nations to create the next global climate treaty in December and define the path~~
64 ~~of reducing atmospheric carbon dioxide emissions levels below 350 parts per million. The United~~
65 ~~States will also help assist communities and countries in their shift to low carbon economies.~~

66 ~~Let It Be Further Resolved that an ASUM executive will write a letter to the Congressional~~
67 ~~Representatives informing them of the endorsement and providing a copy of the resolution.~~
68 ~~Senator Tester, Senator Baucus, and Representative Rehberg on behalf of the students of The~~
69 ~~University of Montana, urging their support on climate legislation. Included in the letter will be~~
70 ~~a copy of this Resolution.~~

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73 Passed by Committee: _____, 2009

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75 Passed by Senate: _____, 2009

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82 Andrew Dusek,
83 Relations and Affairs Chair

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82 Emily May,
83 Chair of the Senate

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