

1 **Montana Associated Students**
2 **Resolution for a Revenue Enhancement Regarding Wine Taxation**
3 **February 9, 2017**

4 **SB 06-16/17**

5 **Authored by: Sam Forstag, MAS President; Andy Bixler, MAS Lobbyist**
6 **Sponsored by:**
7

8 Whereas, the Montana Associated Students (MAS) represents the interests of over 40,000
9 students across the state of Montana;

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11 Whereas, The Montana Legislature has proposed \$25 million in cuts to the Montana University
12 System (MUS);

13
14 Whereas, UM is already facing budget shortfalls that are significant enough to possibly require
15 cuts to personnel and tuition hikes;

16
17 Whereas, Due to a significant drop in state revenues, the state of Montana is facing widespread
18 cuts to numerous state agencies and struggling to find revenue sources with which to fund state
19 agencies and the MUS;

20
21 Whereas, The current level of state funding and tuition already leaves Montana students
22 graduating college with an average of over \$27,000 in student loan debt;

23
24 Whereas, Montana currently ranks 37th in the nation for state appropriations to public higher
25 education¹;

26
27 Whereas, The rate of taxation for wine has not been adjusted in over a decade;

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29 Whereas, The 27-cent per liter tax increase on wine sales proposed by SB 191 would generate
30 considerable revenue for the state, 69 percent of which would go to the General Fund;

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32 Whereas, A General Fund increase would allow the Montana Legislature to provide more
33 funding to programs vital to the MUS and avoid making harmful cuts to public funding higher
34 education in the state of Montana;

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36 Therefore, Let it Be Resolved that the Montana Associated Students (MAS) supports current
37 legislative proposals for an increase to the rate of taxation of wine, including SB 191;

38
39 Therefore, Let it Further Be Resolved that MAS supports directing a maximal amount of this
40 revenue toward restoring the deep cuts that have been proposed to Montana University System's
41 budget for FY 2017-18;

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43 Passed by MAS: _____, 2017

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45 _____
46 Kennedee Burk,
47 Vice President Internal

45 _____
46 Sam Forstag,
47 MAS President