

RESOLUTION
of the
MONTANA BOARD OF REGENTS
RELATING TO THE IMPACT OF THE SIX-MILL LEVY
(Legislative Resolution 118)

WHEREAS, since 1920 the citizens of Montana have approved a statewide property tax mill levy representing the foundation of state financial support for the Montana University System; and

WHEREAS, since 1948 the levy has been set at six-mills and voters have re-approved the levy in support of the university system every 10 years; and

WHEREAS, the 2007 Legislature approved a referendum to ask the electorate to continue support for the university system through the six-mill levy; and

WHEREAS, without voter approval, the current six-mill levy will expire in January 2009; and

WHEREAS, if the six-mill levy is passed, the levy proposal will be effective January 1, 2009 and terminate January 1, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the six-mill levy is projected to generate approximately \$13 million per year to be used for the general academic operation of the Montana University System; and

WHEREAS, if the six-mill levy is not approved, Board of Regents' computations indicate that an additional \$13 million in state general fund support - or an additional \$13 million in student tuition - will be needed each year in order to retain the quality and level of services; and

WHEREAS, absent an increase in state general fund support, if the Board of Regents opts to maintain the current level of quality services, it would require a 5 – 6 percent increase in tuition to generate \$13 million in student tuition revenue; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Regents believes that affordable access to high quality postsecondary educational opportunities, which would be restricted by failure to pass this ballot issue, is increasingly necessary for Montanans to succeed in today's changing and competitive global economic environment;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Regents of Higher Education that the six-mill levy is the cornerstone of Montana University System funding, the passage of which will enhance access to and the affordability of higher education for Montana students over the next ten years.

Dated this 25th day of September, 2008

CERTIFICATION OF RESOLUTION

The Board of Regents of Higher Education for the State of Montana, having considered the above Resolution in a regularly scheduled, properly noticed meeting of the Board of Regents held on September 25, 2008, adopted said Resolution by the following votes:

Motion made: _____

Regents voting in favor: _____

Regents voting against: _____

ATTEST:

Sheila M. Stearns
Commissioner of Higher Education
Secretary of Board of Regents

Date