RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE

OF

THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Adopted 3 November 2016

Intent: ASMSU supports legislation like House Bill 0295 pass in 2011 and Initiative 180 promoting the use and construction of renewable energy infrastructure in Montana, which would make the state a national leader in the transition to renewable energy.

Whereas, The renewable energy industry possesses vast job creation potential as demonstrated by the 5% industry growth in 2015, with millions of people employed in installation, manufacturing, and administrative divisions; and,

Whereas, Studies from the University of Montana have projected a loss of 7,100 coal-related jobs within three years after implementation of the EPA’s Clean Power Plan; and,

Whereas, Economic research indicates that renewable energy is likely to create 4,000 jobs in Montana within the next 20 years; and,

Whereas, Montana has the potential to generate 4,700 terawatt hours of wind-generated electricity, which is 370 times current Montana electricity sale and could allow Montana to become the second largest wind energy-generation state in the US; and,

Whereas, The Judith Gap Energy Center, which has an expected annual output of 450,000,000 kilowatt hours, is one of the most productive windfarms in the nation; and,

Whereas, The owners of the land being used by the Judith Gap Energy Center are being compensated through royalty payments based on energy production in addition to farming and ranching operations beneath the wind turbines; and,

Whereas, Wind energy projects in Arkansas have been shown to reduce costs for both companies and consumers; and,

Whereas, Energy from Wind farms is less expensive and less volatile in price than energy from natural gas and coal plants; and,

Whereas, Montana has the potential to develop substantial, inexpensive geothermal energy with thousands of possible jobs in the construction and operation of such facilities; and,

Whereas, The price of solar energy has dropped 70% since 2009 and the US has experienced an 86% increase in solar energy jobs since 2010; now, therefore be it

Resolved, That ASMSU encourages the Montana State Legislature to write, support, and pass legislation that helps the state of Montana transition to renewable energy.

Bradley Jones – Senate Speaker