

EXHIBIT NO. 7DATE 2-16-05BILL NO. SB-263

kaengelson@hotmail.com

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**From :** Jessica Grennan <jessicagrennan@hotmail.com>  
**Sent :** Wednesday, February 16, 2005 1:04 PM  
**To :** kaengelson@hotmail.com

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Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, thank you for your time this morning. My name is Jessica Grennan. I am the lobbyist for the Associated Students of the University of Montana in Missoula.

ASUM represents the 13,000 students of University Montana including over a thousand students at the College of Technology.

Today I come forward in strong support for ~~House~~ <sup>Senate</sup> Bill ~~165~~ <sup>263</sup> ~~ND-165~~ sets the term of the student regent to one year.

The purpose of the student regent is to put both a student face and student input upon the governing body of the Montana University System. Setting a fixed term for the student regent eliminates the ambiguity of the current law. By setting the term for a year it gives more students a chance to participate in the regent process. Most importantly it also demands that the regent is accountable to the students. The Regents' Code of Conduct stipulates that first and foremost the student regent is the representative of students. House Bill 165 ensures that the student regent has the continual support of students.

The current term up to three years leave out an important part of our university community the colleges of technology. As we've heard many times during the Governor's state of the union the college of technology are the training grounds for many of the new jobs. College of technology are an important part of our university system making up \_\_\_% of total students. Currently we disenfranchise this group of students. I have testimony from the Student Body president of Montana State University Northern in support of this bill.

A concern about this bill warrants response right away. First, this bill will not undermine the student regent position. The vast majority of student regents have only serves the year term and they have been able advocates for student. Included in my testimony is the list and terms of the student regents. This is simply a housecleaning bill to remove ambiguity in a way that puts students first. For all of these reasons, the Associated Students of the University of Montana strongly recommend a do pass recommendation for Senate Bill.

I will be around for the remaining portion of the committee hearing and will be happy to answer any questions. Thank you for your time today.