EXHIBIT 7
DATE 2/15/2013
SB SJ 18

Amendments to Senate Joint Resolution No. 18
3rd Reading Copy

Requested by Senator Fred Thomas

For the House Judiciary Committee

Prepared by Jaret Coles
March 15, 2013 (3:28pm)

1. Title, page 1, line 7.
Following: "~~BUDGET,~~"
Insert: "ANNUALLY PRODUCE A BALANCED BUDGET,"
Following: "~~ANNUAL~~"
Insert: "ANNUAL"
Following: "LEVELS~~,~~"
Insert: ","

2. Page 1, line 30.
Following: line 29
Insert: "WHEREAS, the fiscal policies of the United States federal government have placed our country on an untenable path, creating unprecedented debt, hindering job creation, and threatening future generations of Montanans with a bleak future; and

WHEREAS, high levels of debt directly threaten the ability of a government to control its own budget priorities; and

WHEREAS, our nation's fiscal crisis threatens our economy and national security, has contributed to a loss of trust in government, and exposes individual states to dire economic times; and

WHEREAS, the federal government in 2011 raised the debt ceiling to prevent the United States from facing its first ever default; and

WHEREAS, the interest expense on our national debt exceeds $151 billion for fiscal year 2013, and by 2023, interest on the national debt is estimated to be nearly $900 billion; and

WHEREAS, payments on our nation's debt exceed $200 billion annually, and as a result, the credit rating of the United States in 2011 was lowered for the first time; and

WHEREAS, by borrowing revenue from the future and spending it today, our nation's debt is being passed on to future generations who have no say in the decisionmaking process; and

WHEREAS, passing our debt to the next generation is contradictory to the American principle of leaving our nation, states, and local communities in better shape than we found them; and

WHEREAS, the federal debt threatens the livelihood of

Montana's veterans; and

WHEREAS, the federal cost of Medicaid expansion across all states is projected to add $931 billion or nearly $1 trillion to the national debt; and"

3. Page 2, line 8.
Following: line 7
Insert: "WHEREAS, the people of Montana expect and demand the same of our federal government; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has failed to approve a budget since 2009 and has not produced a balanced budget since 2001; a budget is not only a constitutional requirement, it is a fundamental responsibility and a reflection of principles and vision; and"

4. Page 2, line 14.
Following: "~~budget,~~"
Insert: "annually produce a balanced budget,"
Following: "~~annual~~"
Insert: "annual"
Following: "levels~~,~~"
Insert: ","

- END -