



A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA URGING THE MONTANA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO INITIATE A PROCESS WHEREIN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MUST ACCOMPLISH A BALANCED BUDGET WITHIN 10 YEARS AND LOWER ANNUAL FEDERAL DEFICIT SPENDING LEVELS.

WHEREAS, the fiscal policies of the United States federal government have placed our country on an untenable path and threaten future generations of Montanans; 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 has raised the debt ceiling 79 times since 1960 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; and

WHEREAS, passing massive amounts of federal 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, Montana and 48 other states are required by law to pass balanced budgets; and

WHEREAS, nearly all states are constitutionally required to produce balanced budgets, and although economic conditions vary and demand for government services may increase, leaders are required to make

difficult decisions in accordance with the fundamental principles of fiscal prudence; and

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; and

WHEREAS, that which cannot continue, will not.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

That the Legislature of the State of Montana hereby calls upon the Montana Congressional Delegation and the President of the United States of America to initiate a process wherein the federal government reduces annual deficit spending and accomplishes a balanced budget within 10 years.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send a copy of this resolution to each member of the Montana Congressional Delegation and the President of the United States.

- END -

I hereby certify that the within joint resolution,
SJ 0018, originated in the Senate.

Secretary of the Senate

President of the Senate

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2013.

Speaker of the House

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2013.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 18

INTRODUCED BY F. THOMAS

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