

**Bemidji State University**  
**Student Association Student Senate**  
*“Trust, Vision, Voice”*

**SB- 16 - 11**

**Divestment from Fossil Fuels**

**Moved By:** Chair McClellan

**Seconded By:** Senator Kennedy

**Whereas** the Bemidji State University Student Association (BSUSA) Student Senate is the official voice of the students; and

**Whereas** Bemidji State University (BSU) has a shared fundamental value of Environmental Stewardship and a mission statement that states “we instill and promote service to others, preservation of the earth, and respect and appreciation for the diverse peoples of our region and world;” and

**Whereas** BSU’s fundamental values should be reflected in the investments it benefits from; and

**Whereas** BSU has a commitment to be carbon-neutral by 2050; and

**Whereas** at the Paris Climate Summit in December 2015, the United States agreed to keep the average global temperature from increasing by 2°C; and

**Whereas** the burning of 565 gigatons of fossil fuels will result in a 2°C warming in average global temperatures, and the fossil fuel industry plans to burn 2,795 gigatons of known fossil fuel reserves; and

**Whereas** 504 institutions have already committed to divesting \$3.4 trillion from fossil fuels; and

**Whereas** Students for the Environment has petitioned the University and has acquired 243 signatures by March 8, 2016 at 4:30pm, 233 of which are students and alumni and 10 of which are faculty and staff.

**Therefore be it resolved** that BSUSA Student Senate calls upon BSU and the Foundation to divest from fossil fuels within five years from direct ownership and from any commingled funds that include fossil fuel public equities and corporate bonds.

**First Reading:** *March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016*

**Second Reading:** *March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016*

**Result:** *12 in favor, zero opposed, one abstention*

**Date:** *March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016*