

Revised

1 *mill*
 2 *INTRODUCED BY* *GRINDE* *Benedict* *Marcos* *Boer* *Harjane*
 3 *Nurlock* *Stall* *Forbes* *Wagner* *Smith*
 4 *Robinson* *Keenan* *Forbes* *Wagner* *Smith*

5 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
 6 MONTANA URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO VOTE IN FAVOR OF A FEDERAL
 7 CONSTITUTIONAL BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT WHEN IT AGAIN COMES BEFORE THE CONGRESS
 8 FOR APPROVAL.

9 *DENNY* *Sprague* *Wm E Donatelli*
 10 *Bel Brown* *Emerson* *Jenkins*

11 WHEREAS, the people of the United States and the State of Montana spoke loudly and clearly in
 12 November 1994 about the need for fundamental budget reform; and

13 WHEREAS, Montana has long been required by the state constitution to balance its state operating
 14 budget; and

15 WHEREAS, Montana has long balanced its budget by making difficult choices during each legislative
 16 session to ensure that expenditures do not exceed revenue; and

17 WHEREAS, without a balanced federal budget, the federal deficit may continue to grow over the
 18 next 10 years from \$150 billion gross domestic product (GDP) a year to \$400 billion GDP a year, continuing
 19 the serious negative impact on interest rates, available credit for consumers, and taxpayer obligations; and

20 WHEREAS, the federal debt presently stands at more than \$4.7 trillion; and

21 WHEREAS, the federal budget has not been balanced in over 25 years; and

22 WHEREAS, achieving a balanced federal budget by the year 2002 will require reductions in the
 23 annual deficit averaging nearly 15% annually over the next 7 years; and

24 WHEREAS, the United States House of Representatives recently approved a constitutional
 25 amendment to balance the federal budget for the first time in history, by a vote of 300 to 132; and

26 WHEREAS, 1 year ago the United States Senate failed to approve a balanced budget by only three
 27 votes; and

28 WHEREAS, the Montana Legislature is ready and willing to approve a balanced budget amendment
 29 to the United States Constitution once it is passed by the Congress and sent to the states for ratification.

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



1 That the Montana Legislature urges the Congress to vote in favor of a constitutional balanced
2 budget amendment when it again comes before the Congress for approval.

3 -END-

APPROVED BY COM ON
STATE ADMINISTRATION

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 30

2 INTRODUCED BY GRINDE, BENEDICT, MERCER, BAER, GRADY, HARGROVE, KASTEN, BURNETT,
3 MILLER, MURDOCK, T. NELSON, STOVALL, ZOOK, ORR, WAGNER, SIMON, MOHL, DEBRUYCKER,
4 DEVANEY, KEENAN, FORBES, SLITER, S. SMITH, SPRAGUE, BOHARSKI, DENNY, JABS, BROWN,
5 EMERSON, JENKINS

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3 That the Montana Legislature urges the Congress to vote in favor of a constitutional balanced
4 budget amendment when it again comes before the Congress for approval.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE IS REQUESTED TO SEND A COPY
6 OF THIS JOINT RESOLUTION TO MONTANA'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATES, ACCOMPANIED BY A
7 REQUEST THAT MONTANA'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATES DISTRIBUTE COPIES OF THE RESOLUTION
8 TO THEIR RESPECTIVE COLLEAGUES IN THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND IN THE
9 UNITED STATES SENATE.

10

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1 AND

2 WHEREAS, THE MONTANA LEGISLATURE WILL, AS OF THIS DATE, RETURN TO THE FEDERAL
3 GOVERNMENT AN AMOUNT OF MONEY THAT WOULD EQUAL \$22 BILLION IF SPREAD OUT ACROSS
4 THE POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES AS A COMMITMENT TO MONTANA'S EFFORT TO BALANCE
5 THE FEDERAL BUDGET.

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