

approved by unanimous
consent 11/5/13

AR 17 In Support of The Wells Project

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WHEREAS, 3.4 million people die each year from water-related disease¹; and,

WHEREAS, 780 million people lack access to a water source that is protected from outside contamination; approximately one in nine people²; and,

WHEREAS, According to the World Health Organization, for every \$1 invested in water and sanitation, there is an economic return of between \$3 and \$34³; and,

WHEREAS, The Wells Project exists to shape the culture of the campus where it exists by engaging students and the surrounding community with the reality of the water crisis⁴; and,

WHEREAS, In 2007 a campaign was started at Texas A&M University in order to raise funds in support of clean well construction in the effort of solving the water crisis⁵; and,

WHEREAS, In 2010, Living Water International made The Wells Project its official student organization at Texas A&M University and has since spread to Baylor University, Texas State University, Southern Methodist University, Houston Baptist University, Oklahoma State University, Rice University, as well as 6 other universities⁶; and,

¹ World Health Organization (WHO). (2008). Safer Water, Better Health: Costs, Benefits, and sustainability of interventions to protect and promote health; Accessed October 21, 2013.

² WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) for Water Supply and Sanitation. (2012). Accessed October 21, 2013.

³ World Health Organization. Executive Summary of "Costs and Benefits of Water and Sanitation Improvements at the Global Level". Accessed October 21, 2013.

⁴ The Wells Project Mission Statement from The Wells Project 2013-2015 Strategic Plan. Accessed October 21, 2013

⁵ The Wells Project Website. <http://wellsproject.com/our-work/>. Accessed October 21, 2013

⁶ The Wells Project Website. <http://wellsproject.com/schools/>. Accessed October 21, 2013

WHEREAS, A chapter of The Wells Project was created on The University of Texas at Austin campus in the fall of 2013⁷, in order to advocate for the ongoing water crisis; and,

WHEREAS, November 11th through November 20th the University of Texas at Austin chapter of The Wells Project will promote “The Ten Days” campaign, in which students will be encouraged to make water their only beverage for 10 days. The money that would have been spent on other beverages will then be donated in order to raise funds for clean, safe water in the Ruhango district of Rwanda⁸; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, The Student Government of the University of Texas at Austin acknowledges the importance of educating students regarding the water crisis; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The Student Government of the University of Texas at Austin supports The Wells Project – UT Austin chapter and the Ten Days campaign through its social media outlets; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Office of the President, Office of the Dean of Students, Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs, The Daily Texan, Office of the Dean of the Jackson School of Geosciences, Office of the Dean of the Cockrell School of Engineering, and the Office of the Dean of the College of Natural Sciences.

⁷ <https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Wells-Project-UT-Austin/219017088256915>. Accessed October 24, 2013

⁸ 10 Days website. <http://10days.cc/#mission>. Accessed October 24, 2013