

VETO

Don Russell
President 5-7-83
9:51 am

Title: The Last Word on WyPIRG

Introduced: April 15, 1983

Thesis:

Sponsors: Connie Keller, Milo Vukelich, Graig Blumenshine, Amy Chisholm, Sandy Cole, Debbie Cole, Bobby Wright, Scott Ottoes, Peter Van Houten, Steve Greene, John Eisenhower, Branda Marincic, Mike Jensen, Terry Martin, Bruce Johnson, Lisa Beard, Rena Thaxton, Amy Palmquist, Dave Geist, Charlie Jennings, Rebecca Williams, Shelby Bonner

1. Be it enacted by the Student Senate of the Associated Students of the
2. University of Wyoming that whereas the student body in the recent ASUW
3. General Election defeated the WyPIRG referendum by a 2-1 margin, and
4. whereas the ASUW Government has already invested countless hours, and over
5. \$1,000 in the WyPIRG effort to no avail, and whereas the new ASUW Student
6. Consumer Committee will become part of the ASUW Constitution upon Trustee
7. approval, Therefore no ASUW funds or resources may be used by any member of
8. the ASUW Government in any manner or instance which may directly or indirectly
9. aid, assist, or further the organization known as WyPIRG, or any equivalent
10. autonomous, semi-autonomous, or extra-ASUW organization espousing similar
11. objectives. Further, Be it enacted by the Student Senate of the Associated
12. Students of the University of Wyoming that all ASUW administrators and
13. administrative sub-units are equally enjoined from such use of ASUW funds
14. and resources for the aid, assistance or furtherance of WyPIRG or equivalent
15. organizations. This bill will become effective immediately upon the
16. approval of the ASUW Senate and President, and will continue in force for
17. the remainder of the 1983 fiscal year (ends June 30, 1983) and for the
18. entirety of the 1984 fiscal year (July 1, 1983 to June 30, 1984).

Referred to: Steering

Date of Passage: April 26, 1983

Signed: Kristi A. Hall
ASUW Senate Chairperson

"Being enacted on _____, I do hereby sign my name hereto and approve this Senate action." _____ ASUW President

TO: ASUW Senate

FROM: Don Rissler, ASUW President

RE: Veto of Senate Bill #1448

DATE: May 7, 1983

After a great deal of consideration, I have decided to veto Senate Bill #1448, "The Last Word on WyPIRG", passed by the ASUW Senate April 26, 1983. I share many of the concerns that were voiced by some senators at the meeting, but more particularly I'm concerned that the bill sets a dangerous precedent for student government here at the University of Wyoming. Furthermore, I believe the bill violates the Freedom of Speech and Association, as protected by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.

As student leaders, we must always encourage student participation and keep in touch with what is going on around us on Campus. We cannot hide behind a moratorium to cut off debate on the WyPIRG issue for a year, or for that matter, any other issue which may arise.

The sentiment of the majority in the senate meeting supported passage of Bill #1448 on the grounds that the WyPIRG issue has wasted a great deal of their time. Yet, as elected student representatives, it is our duty to entertain new ideas, discuss their potential, and approve or disapprove them according to their merits and our own consciences.

In the last election, the student body of the University of Wyoming rejected the WyPIRG proposal and approved the creation of the ASUW Student Consumer Committee. I am committed to the vote of the students, and will work diligently in the coming year with the Senate to promote the success of the Student Consumer Committee. The establishment of the Student Consumer Committee is hardly an excuse to cut off all debate on the WyPIRG issue, ignoring the controversy in the hope it will go away.

I stand firmly behind my earlier statements that the only way to put WyPIRG to rest completely is to establish a good ASUW Student Consumer Committee and make sure that committee accomplishes its objectives. I would suggest that the committee members who are living here in Laramie this summer meet and begin work on a project to be completed as soon as students return next fall. The students will then see that our committee means business and will, in fact, do what it says it will do. This will truly be the last work on WyPIRG.

I believe that less intrusive alternative means exist for dealing with controversial issues than to cut off all debate. If the Senate is concerned over the amount of time and expense being devoted to the WyPIRG issue, I recommend that the Senate pursue a parliamentary course at each meeting WyPIRG is raised, cutting off debate only after ideas have been discussed fully.

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Furthermore, if the Senate is opposed to funding WyPIRG, they can withhold their consent as they do with any other appropriation request.

The ASUW is the appropriate forum to present proposals like WyPIRG. When students contribute student fees they expect, and rightly so, to have a say in where their money will be spent. The moratorium on WyPIRG is a denial of this right. Instead of putting up "stone walls" to student speech and contribution, we should be eliciting student help and ideas to make the Student Consumer Committee work. I now encourage all Senators, students endorsing WyPIRG, and students endorsing the Student Consumer Committee to join forces and make the ASUW Student Consumer Committee a success.

A college campus should remain "the market place of ideas", a center for the exchange of ideas and philosophy. "The Last Word on WyPIRG" places a one year moratorium on any proposal brought to us by a fully recognized group on Campus or any other "extra ASUW organization espousing similar objectives." This Bill serves as a prior restraint to their right to free speech and association. The Bill sets a dangerous precedent. For example, if the student newspaper prints an unfavorable account of ASUW, are we to discontinue their funding and refuse them an audience? What about other clubs?

Our treatment of all the clubs and organizations here at the University of Wyoming should be equal.