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A Bill

To be entitled "Environmental Service Fee Act" relating to increasing the environmental service fee from \$1 to \$3.

WHEREAS: One of Texas State's attractions is the beautiful wildlife and scenery that defines our campus; and

WHEREAS: The Environmental Service Fee finances the Environmental Service Committee that protects our campus environment by allocating funds to programs like Bobcat Blend, which provides composting research and job opportunities for students, and invasive species removal projects that protect our river's endangered wildlife; and

WHEREAS: With a \$1 environmental service fee, the ESC's operating budget is obsolete and not self-sustaining for funding new projects to help protect the ecosystem; and

WHEREAS: Universities like the University of Texas and Texas A&M have a \$6 service fee, and a 2020 to 2022 Sustainability

17 Culture Assessment showed that 61% of Texas State students
18 and 60% of faculty supported the fee increase; and

19 **WHEREAS:** Texas State University is one of the only universities in
20 Texas not to increase its Environmental Service Fee since
21 its establishment in 2003; and

22 **WHEREAS:** As our student body experiences record-setting growth,
23 our responsibility to maintain the campus environment by
24 improving sustainability and conservation efforts must
25 increase with it; and

26 **WHEREAS:** The Sustainability Committee has met extensively with
27 current Office of Sustainability Coordinator Emma
28 Parsley, ESC Chair Drake Blanchard, and members of the
29 Sustainability Student Council who all strongly encourage
30 the increase of this fee; and

31 **WHEREAS:** An increase in the fee would support Texas State
32 University's environmental efforts significantly more
33 than in previous years, preventing programs from going
34 underfunded and allowing more sustainability research and
35 job opportunities to be created for students; therefore,

36 **BE IT ENACTED:** The Undergraduate Senate of the Texas State Student
37 Government supports an increase of the Environmental
38 Service Fee from \$1 to \$3 beginning in the Academic 2026-

39 2027 school year on the next full student body election
40 for a vote of the student body. As prescribed by Texas
41 Education Code §54.5111, a vote to increase the
42 Environmental Service Fee must be voted on by the student
43 body in an election that includes at least 1,000 students
44 and in which the increase is affirmed by the majority of
45 participants; and

46 **BE IT FURTHER ENACTED:** This bill be forwarded to the Student Body
47 President for further action.