Resolution SS1819-11 **March 25, 2019**

Erin Hiestand, *Senator - Ryan Hall*
Daniel Rottenborn, *Senator - Alumni Hall, Chair of Senate Sustainability Committee*
Kevin Gallagher, *Director of Social Concerns - Executive Cabinet*

A RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME TO SUPPORT RESIDENCE HALLS' PARTICIPATION IN THE WIDER IMPLEMENTATION OF GRIND2ENERGY TECHNOLOGY

Whereas, the University of Notre Dame organizes residential life into a system of residence halls central to student life at the University;

Whereas, food waste in these residence halls plays a major role in contaminating waste and recycling streams;

Whereas, as of Fall 2018 Notre Dame can only recycle materials with less than .5% contamination, which commonly comes from food residue;

Whereas, food that ends up in landfills decomposes slowly in the absence of sufficient oxygen, releasing methane, the most harmful greenhouse gas, into the atmosphere;

Whereas, food waste constitutes 10% of waste that Notre Dame sends to landfills;

Whereas, Procurement Services, Strategic Sourcing, and the Office of Sustainability have committed to "embody the traditional principles of sustainability as a Catholic university committed to remaining vital and strong for succeeding generations," thereby, "equating a respectful stewardship of the environment with the faithful care of God's creation";

Whereas, a Grind2Energy anaerobic digestion system has been installed and is currently operational at the Notre Dame Center for Culinary Excellence;

Whereas, installation is currently underway on two additional Grind2Energy systems, one to service North Dining Hall and one to service South Dining Hall;

Whereas, anaerobic digestion of food waste helps keep waste streams clean, eliminates the need for garbage bags in food disposal, reduces trash pick-ups, and minimizes pest control costs for the university's residence halls;

Whereas, Student Government and the Student Senate recognize the need to continue expanding sustainability-centered initiatives across campus;

Resolved, the Student Senate calls on the University of Notre Dame du Lac to support residence halls' participation in the wider implementation of Grind2Energy technology.

Gates McGavick
Student Body President