



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF OREGON**

MEASURE: SB 1512 A
EXHIBIT: 7
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SUBMITTED BY: Peggy Lynch

February 23, 2012

To: House Energy, Environment and Water Committee
Representative Jules Bailey, Co-Chair
Representative Vic Gilliam, Co-Chair

From: League of Women Voters of Oregon
Peggy Lynch, Natural Resources Chair

Re: SB 1512A – Addressing Mercury in Fluorescent Lights - Support

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, grassroots political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We support SB 1512A, because we believe it is an important step forward in lessening the serious health risks associated with the presence of mercury in fluorescent lights.

Although fluorescent lights are an excellent energy-saving tool, the mercury contained within them has been shown to damage the brain, liver, and kidneys and can cause developmental disorders in children. In our opinion, SB 1512A provides an effective approach that will help to alleviate the harmful effects of mercury on our health and on the environment. It will reduce the mercury content of bulbs sold in Oregon and improve the collection and recycling process of these bulbs. The League would have preferred to see a consumer education program as part of this bill, but we accept the compromise among the parties and are pleased to see Oregon become yet another leader in protecting the health of its citizens. We applaud the industry for being a partner in that effort.

The League bases its support for SB 1512A on our belief that early intervention and prevention measures are key to ensuring children's health. Also, our solid waste position asserts that government has an important role to play in setting standards to ensure maximum protection of public health and the environment.

The League strongly urges passage of SB 1512A, and we appreciate the opportunity to present our views.