April 17, 2013

To: Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources
Senator Chris Edwards and Representative Ben Unger, Co-Chairs
Members of the Committee

Re: SB 5521 – Department of Forestry Budget: COMMENTS

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, grassroots political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. The League understands the many values of our federal, state and private forest lands. We especially appreciate their value as the source of most of Oregonians' drinking water. In our "Water in Oregon" Part 2 Report, Jake Gibbs of Lone Rock Timber stated "The cleanest water comes from a well-managed forest." We agree. Therefore, we support the following Policy Option Packages:

POP 452: Continues participation and research support in the Watershed Research Cooperative and Riparian Function and Stream Temperature Projects;

POP 486: A new monitoring plan for the Elliott forest and

POP 453: As in the past, we support Stewardship Foresters and appreciate the increase that was provided in the 2011-13 budget. This package will increase that work to reach out to our small woodland owners and address some of the urban interface challenges. Assuring that the Forest Practices Act is enforced is important to our members. We are impressed by the new efficiency procedures that have allowed these foresters to get on the ground quickly and help the industry with quick, but accurate, answers to questions that necessarily arise from forest practices.

As with agricultural land, the League is working hard to assure our industrial forestlands are available for today and future generations. We support land use Goal 4 and are very concerned about the increase in urban interface lands. We understand the conflicts between these two uses and will continue to be vigilant and supportive of ways to protect these important industrial lands—lands that support our third largest state industry.

Thank you for considering our requests.

Sincerely,

Robin Wisdom
President

Peggy Lynch
Natural Resources Coordinator