



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF OREGON**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a 97-year-old grassroots nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We envision informed Oregonians participating in a fully accessible, responsive, and transparent government to achieve the common good. LWVOR Legislative Action is based on advocacy positions formed through studies and member consensus. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party.

February 20, 2018

To: House Committee on Human Services and Housing
Representative Phil Barnhart, Chair; Representative Greg Smith, Vice-Chair;
Representative Barbara Smith Warner, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee

Mail to: lro.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

Re: **HB 4007** – Increase in the Document Recording Fee in 2018 – **Support**

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that state and local governments should assist by establishing effective agencies to aid, promote, coordinate and supplement the housing programs of the federal government and the private sector.

The Document Recording Fee is a successful, dedicated, ongoing source of revenue that helps prevent and end homelessness, builds more affordable homes, and creates access to homeownership. The League is asking the Committee to support HB 4007, and in particular, Section 12 of the bill specifying a substantial increase in the current document recording fee.

The Document Recording Fee is charged when documents on a home purchase are recorded or changes are made to the title, or other real estate documents. Currently the fee is \$20, and it supports three purposes: 10% of those resources goes to the Emergency Housing Account; 14% to the Home Ownership Assistance Program; and 76% to the General Housing Account Program. One out of every four dollars goes to serve veterans.

Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) administers these program resources as follows:

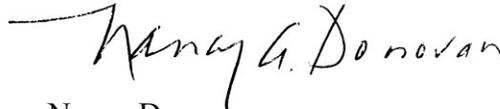
- Emergency Housing Account (10%) works to prevent and end homelessness. The program provides emergency rental assistance through a network of federally funded Community Action Agencies, serving 16 regions in the state. It also provides rent assistance to keep someone in their home, or it assists with deposits and application fees;
- Home Ownership Assistance Program (14%) goes to help folks access homeownership by providing down payment assistance, education and counseling through a statewide network of Homeownership Centers. Homeownership Centers provide counseling and education for first-time homebuyers as well as support to homeowners who may be facing foreclosure; and
- General Housing Account (76%) is used to build more affordable homes. These program funds will develop and preserve safe and affordable homes for low-income Oregonians. Under this program, more than 4,300 affordable homes have been built or preserved in 55 towns and cities all across Oregon. These homes serve seniors, people with disabilities, veterans, and households with low incomes.

Housing gives people an opportunity to build better lives. We need to remove the barriers that Oregonians with low-incomes face in finding housing they can afford, close to work and schools. In every community in our state, there are residents who struggle to make ends meet. They are often forced to choose between paying rent and putting food on the table. We need to help make sure that everyone has a safe, stable, affordable place to call home.

Thank you for your attention and consideration of HB 4007.



Norman Turrill
LWVOR President



Nancy Donovan
LWVOR Housing Portfolio

cc: Speaker Tina Kotek