



The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a 99-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.

January 30, 2019

To: House Committee on Energy and Environment
Representative Ken Helm, Chair
Members of the Committee
Email: hee.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

Re: HB 2084 – Extends Sunset Date for Place-Based Planning – **Support**

The League of Women Voters has had positions on water policy and planning since 1977. In 2011, after three years of study, we updated and combined our water policy positions on quality and quantity in recognition of their intrinsic connection. The League was proud to have participated in the development of the Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS) in both 2012 and the update in 2017.

With those actions in mind, we strongly support the passage of HB 2084 to extend the sunset on this program until 2023. Frankly, we have been so impressed by the four local planning efforts that we would support removing the sunset entirely. It was clear from our work on the IWRS that broad-based local efforts will be the most successful mechanisms for addressing both water quality and quantity in Oregon. Each basin has its own special challenges and opportunities. Local planning is the best use of grant funds and of staff time and support.

We know of many other locations where additional funding for this program would be appreciated. You will hear from those who have been a part of the current planning efforts. It's hard work. But you will also hear that, if the outcomes from these efforts come to fruition, it will have been worth it, not only for those local areas, but for our entire state.

We urge you to unanimously provide a “do pass” recommendation on HB 2084. Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Norman Turrill".

Norman Turrill
LWVOR President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peggy Lynch".

Peggy Lynch
LWVOR Natural Resources Coordinator

Cc: Thomas Byler, Director, Water Resources Department (Thomas.M.Byler@oregon.gov)

From the January 28th Water Conditions Report: *“The most recent update to the US Drought Monitor is showing an improvement in conditions in Oregon over the past few weeks. Indicators now to point toward D3 (Extreme Drought) in a little over 12 percent of the state. This is down from the 23 percent indicated last week. The report continues to show that 78 percent of the state is in D2 (Severe Drought), 91 percent is listed as in D1 (Moderate Drought) and **100 percent of the state is still listed as D0 (Abnormally Dry).**”*