



*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.*

March 7, 2019

To: Senate Environment and Natural Resources  
Committee Chair: Senator Michael Dembrow  
Email: [senr.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:senr.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov)

Re: **SB 508** – Changes definition of Renewable Portfolio Standard – **Oppose**

In 2018 the LWV of the United States (LWVUS) Convention adopted a resolution that was proposed by the LWV of Oregon (LWVOR) that states: “The League of Women Voters supports a set of climate assessment criteria that ensures that energy policies align with current climate science. These criteria require that the latest climate science be used to evaluate proposed energy policies and major projects in light of the globally-agreed-upon goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees C, informed by the successful spirit of global cooperation as affirmed in the UN COP 21 Paris agreement.” In addition, the LWVOR jointly with LWVUS have amici standing supporting Our Children’s Trust ‘Juliana v U.S. Government’ in the federal case and jointly with 16+ other Oregon organizations and elected officials in the State of Oregon lawsuit.

The League supported in 2007, the original Renewable (Energy) Portfolio Standard program, in 2016 the League supported HB 4046 “Coal to Clean,” and today we support HB 2020, Oregon Climate Action Program (Clean Energy Jobs/Cap & Invest). The League agrees with [Executive Director Robert Jenks](#) at [CUB Citizens Utility](#) Board, that “Less fossil fuel generation guarantees a reduction in carbon emissions.”

**It’s imperative that Oregon continues to improve, not weaken the Climate/Carbon mitigation and adaptation policies that reflect a realistic legally binding “Climate Recovery Plan.” Given the urgency of responding to climate change, eliminating or restricting the effectiveness of the current Renewable Portfolio Standard program is unacceptable.** What is needed is a comprehensive Climate/Carbon policy package. We must provide strong incentives in all sectors of the economy which ensure that we meet both aggressive interim greenhouse gas emission reduction goals and zero emissions no later than 2050, while responsibly addressing critical social equity transition issues.

**Our testimony to oppose SB 508 is consistent with the League’s national Climate Change position.**

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation, and we urge you to oppose SB 508.

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

Norman Turrill  
LWVOR President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Claudia Keith".

Claudia Keith  
LWVOR Climate Change Portfolio