



The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a 100-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 11, 2020

To: House Committee on Energy and Environment  
[Representative Karin Power](#), Chair  
[Representative Daniel Bonham](#), Vice Chair  
[Representative Janeen Sollman](#), Vice Chair  
Email: [hee.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:hee.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov)

Re: HB 4105—Fossil Fuel Restriction Bill—**Support**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon (LWVOR) “. . . opposes degradation of all of Oregon’s surface and ground water. . . .” and declares that climate change is the greatest environmental challenge of our generation. Many types of fossil fuel infrastructure exploration, development, production, and transportation negatively impact water quality and uses protected by Oregon law. Science has shown for decades that fossil fuel infrastructure, development, and use contribute significantly to the current climate emergency. The time is now to take aggressive steps to protect our water from degradation and reduce greenhouse gas emissions—including methane from natural gas. That means turning away from fossil fuel exploration, development, or productions of oil and gas. The current break-neck pace of those actions, including construction of massive fossil fuel infrastructure designed for 30-50-year operational lifetimes is the wrong direction to go. And for those operations that are already ongoing, at the very least, we must take concerted action to protect the health and safety of our residents and resources. HB 4105 takes two important steps to address these issues.

Section 2 (2) provides that *A state agency may not authorize, by lease, sale or otherwise, the construction of new infrastructure on state-owned real property for: (a) The exploration, development or production of oil or gas; (b) The transportation of oil or gas across state-owned real property; or (c) Activities in furtherance of the exploration, development or production of oil or gas or the transportation of oil or gas across state-owned real property.* **We support this provision, understanding that if it becomes law, new, proposed fossil fuel infrastructure could not be installed on or across state lands. However, understanding that language in the bill is slated for ORS 270.010 “Notice to department before sale of real property,” we urge careful consideration of whether passage of HB 4105 without addressing similar goals in ORS 758.010 “Authority to construct lines and facilities” could potentially cause conflict as the latter ORS section provides in (a) that *Except within cities, any person has a right and privilege to construct, maintain and operate its water, gas, electric or communication services lines, fixtures and other facilities along the public roads in this state . . . or across rivers or over any lands belonging to the state government . . . free of charge . . . .***

Sections 3 through 6 would ensure that Oregon’s oil train standards are as strong as Washington state’s standards. Crude oil is sometimes diluted with materials or contains dissolved gases from the fracking process that makes the oil more volatile, leading to more dangerous fires during derailments. This is a matter of great concern for the safety of Oregon residents and our resources. We urge your Support of HB 4105.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Rebecca Gladstone  
LWVOR President

Shirley Weathers and Claudia Keith  
LWVOR Climate Change Portfolio

Cc: Jason Miner, Governor’s Natural Resources Policy Advisor  
Vicki Walker, Director Department of State Lands  
Kris Strickler, Director Department of Transportation