



The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a 101-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 16, 2021

To: [House Committee on Water](#)
Rep. Ken Helm, Chair
Rep. Mark Owens and Jeff Reardon, Vice Chairs
Members of the Committee

Re: **HB 3293** – Community Engagement in Water Projects - **SUPPORT**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon has strong positions on assuring both water quantity and water quality for Oregon’s residents. We also have strong positions on public participation and encourage Oregonians to engage in local decisions. We engaged in the Integrated Water Resources Strategy and the beginning of the 100-year water vision (and the clock is ticking!).

In this case, HB 3293 requires the six state agencies who provide funding for water projects to begin any project discussion by engaging the local community where the project might be considered. Having an early conversation and engagement with those who live in the area can provide possible solutions that otherwise might not have occurred to those considering a specific project. As engagement occurs and a solution is developed, those who helped determine the project selected then have “ownership” in the project’s success.

The League does note that this bill includes no funding for the agencies to help these engagements so we caution the legislature not to cut General Funds that might pay staff who would help with this engagement. We are pleased that a set of Best Practices will be developed to help each agency work with local communities to provide this engagement.

LWVOR encourages the committee’s support for HB 3293. Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca L. Gladstone".

Rebecca Gladstone
LWVOR President

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

Peggy Lynch
LWVOR Natural Resources Coordinator