



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 18, 2021

To: [Senate Committee on Energy and Environment](#)
Senator Lee Beyer, Chair

Re: [SCR 17](#) - Environmental Justice Framework of Principles - **Support**

On January 27 of this year, the national League of Women Voters named addressing the climate change crisis as one of its nine top priorities in a letter to the new Biden Administration. The League ended its letter with these overarching statements:

We stand by ready to offer our support in examining the impact of systemic racism on how the government serves the American people. The League of Women Voters membership recently affirmed and elevated our commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and we ask the Biden administration to ensure that each agency across the entire government be held to a similar standard.

SCR 17 mirrors these messages in our own backyard. The League of Women Voters of Oregon supports efforts outlined in the bill to secure equal rights and equal opportunity for *all* and to promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of *all* of our residents. It provides a succinct reminder of the ways historical injustices, inequities, and exclusions have caused harm to frontline communities of color and low-income people that today put them at greater risk of conditions resulting from climate change.

One bill will not fix this, but SCR 17 outlines a pathway the Oregon Legislature intends to follow. As on the federal level, the challenges ahead of Oregon require commitment and consistency across state government. If passed, ORS 182.545, requiring that “all persons affected by decisions of natural resource agencies have a voice” in decisions within their missions and purview, will extend across state government. The bill proceeds to lay out commitment to full participation of all frontline communities—“Black, Native American, Indigenous, and People of Color communities and immigrant and low-income communities,” as well essential workers, youth and vulnerable people in both rural and urban communities. It acknowledges the collaboration, investments, resource protection and restoration, and regeneration that will be needed if we are to effectively and equitably confront the climate emergency ahead.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss SCR 17 and we urge your favorable consideration of it.

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LWVOR Climate Emergency Portfolio