



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 24, 2021

To: [Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources](#)
Sen. Kathleen Taylor and Rep. Jeff Reardon, Co-Chairs
Members of the Subcommittee

Re: **HB 5037/5038** – Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) Budget – **SUPPORT**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon believes that water is a resource that should be managed for the benefit of the public and as sustainable habitat for all life forms. The League supports Oregon state policies and statutes that promote comprehensive long-range planning for conservation and management of ground and surface water and the improvement of water quality.

The League has supported the concept of creating a Water Vision for Oregon for a number of years. Our engagement in the 2012 and 2017 Integrated Water Resources Strategy Policy Advisory Groups clarified the need for Oregon, considered a ‘wet state’ and now seeing annual drought, to take seriously the need to assure we have “abundant clean water for all”.

Although there are many other requests in this OWEB budget, we focus on **POP 110** (\$326,653 LF & 1 FTE) that **funds a position to focus on climate and water policy issues**. This package will also provide contracting resources to assist with coordination of water and climate initiatives and enable OWEB to meaningfully contribute to such efforts as Oregon’s 100-year Water Vision and the Governor’s Executive Order 20-04 on Climate through a newly focused equity lens.

Also, **this position will be an important asset as the state pursues federal stimulus funding for water infrastructure and climate** by helping to ensure the state is responsive to stimulus opportunities. This request complements policy packages being included in other agency request budgets.

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

Cc: Meta Loftsgaarden, Director, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
(Meta.Loftsgaarden@oregon.gov)