



*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 31, 2021

To: Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery  
Sen. Jeff Golden, Chair  
Sen. Dallas Heard, Vice-Chair  
Members of the Subcommittee

Re: **SB 337-3** – Forest Practice Committee Membership – **Comments**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon has strong positions on public participation and access. Democratic (with the little “d”) government depends upon the informed and active participation of its residents and requires that governmental bodies protect their right to know and to participate in decisions made related to governance and policy in all issues.

The Department of Forestry’s current Mission is *“To serve the people of Oregon by protecting, managing, and promoting stewardship of Oregon’s forests to enhance environmental, economic, and community sustainability.”*

If the agency is to succeed in its multiple Mission goals, and its published **Vision** (below):

- *Healthy forests providing a sustainable flow of environmental, economic, and social outputs and benefits.*
- *Public and private landowners willingly making investments to create healthy forests.*
- *Statewide forest resource policies that are coordinated among Oregon’s natural resource agencies.*
- *ODF recognized as an agency operating openly and in the public interest.*
- *Oregon achieves a sustainable fire-protection system, fire-resilient forests and fire-adapted communities that reduce the negative impacts of wildfires to all Oregonians.*
- *Citizens who understand, accept, and support sustainable forestry and who make informed decisions that contribute to achievement of the Board of Forestry’s vision for forestry in Oregon.*

then agency advisory committees should have representation from a variety of interests. Whether the -1 amendment meets that goal is not totally clear. The variety of interests focused on the Mission and Vision are still not met, although the proposal does increase representation of interests beyond the purely economic one. Any forward movement toward increased representation is positive.

The League recognizes our forest industry as one important part of Oregon’s economy. We are consistent in advocating for and protecting Goal 4 in our statewide land use planning system. But we also recognize the role of our forests in addressing climate change, and if we do not act soon, our timber industry will surely be adversely impacted. Planning to protect our precious drinking water for both quantity and quality affected by rising global warming temperatures, and water for other of nature’s creatures is equally important. Our forests have a vital role to play in reducing carbon emissions.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Rebecca Gladstone  
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