



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.

April 20, 2021

To: Senate Committee on Rules
Sen. Rob Wagner, Chair
Sen. Fred Girod, Vice-Chair
Members of the Subcommittee

Re: **SB 859** – Increase in Salvaged Vessel Subaccount – **Support**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon has extensive positions on water quality and quantity and believes that “waters of the state” should be protected on behalf of future generations. We have provided testimony on the Dept. of State Lands budget POP 110 related to finding solutions to cleaning up Oregon’s waterways. We also followed the hearings on SB 740 and 840 that would have addressed this important issue. The cost to the public health of Oregon’s waters should not be neglected. Increased focus on this problem (over 200 boats are now abandoned in Oregon’s waters) should be part of the state’s work this biennium.

In a [letter](#) submitted by Eric Pedersen of Stevens Marine on the previous mentioned bills, “The majority of the boats abandoned are built of materials that came to be popular in the late 1960s. Opposed to wood that would rot and decompose; the life of a fiberglass boat hull is far longer and will not decompose back into the environment... ..Aside from the unsettling aesthetics and water hazard of these derelict boats a larger issue of water pollution increases as these boats often have fuel and sewage systems not properly decommissioned releasing contaminants directly into our watersheds.” Ronald Larson on behalf of the Oregon State Marine Board provided [testimony](#) of just one story related to the cost of removing an abandoned vessel. Abby Boudouris of the Dept. of Environmental Quality provided [testimony](#) on SB 740 explaining the hazards and DEQ’s responsibility on this issue. We note that Stan Tonneson of Rocky Pointe Marina in his [letter](#) suggested that \$1 million be added to this fund.

Although we believe that boat owners should have the responsibility for disposal of their boats when they have lived beyond their useful life, we recognize that the truth is the state will need to help in safe disposal while also going after those irresponsible boat owners.

Please pass SB 859 to Ways and Means so they can consider a \$1 million investment in the Salvaged Vessel Subaccount in the Oregon State Marine Board budget. This is a statewide issue as abandoned boats occur in many waterways of Oregon.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Rebecca Gladstone
LWVOR President

Peggy Lynch
LWVOR Natural Resources Coordinator

Cc: Sen. Kathleen Taylor, Chief Sponsor
Rep. Raquel Moore Green
Sen. Betsy Johnson