



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.

February 25, 2021

To: [Senate Committee on Energy and Environment](#)
Senator Lee Beyer, Chair
Vice Chair Senator Lynn Findley
Members of the Committee

Re: **SB 582-1** – Modernize Oregon’s Recycling System – **Support**

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that pollution of natural resources should be controlled to protect the integrity of ecosystems and public health, and specifically that solid waste should be managed as a resource.

The League of Women Voters of Oregon has supported many efforts to expand recycling and opposed many that sought to limit it, including supporting several expansions of the bottle bill. In 1989 we supported a surcharge on waste disposal to fund recycling and hazardous waste programs and more recently the expansion of the beverage container redemption system.

The current recycling system is confusing and not equally available to all Oregonians. Creating a Statewide list of recyclables and prohibiting misleading labeling would make the system more clear. And directing some of the fees collected from producers to improve multifamily and rural programs would increase availability. Placing some of the responsibility for packaging on the producers would encourage more recycling-friendly design. Preventing material from being exported to places without environmental controls and upgrading Oregon’s sorting and processing facilities would reduce harm to ecosystems and protect public health.

We ask that you SUPPORT SB 582 with the -1 amendment.

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 "Camille M. Freitag".

Camille Freitag
LWVOR Recycling Portfolio

Cc: Richard Whitman, Director, Dept. of Environmental Quality (Richard.whitman@state.or.us)