



*The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a 102-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 7, 2022

To: [House Committee On Environment and Natural Resources](#)  
[Representative Pam Marsh](#) Committee Chair  
Members of the Committee

Re: [HB 4077](#) – Environmental Justice Council – **Support**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon supports efforts to secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all and promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans. We strongly support HB 4077 because it would elevate the role of environmental justice advocates and new technology in formulating the state’s environmental policies, ensuring that those policies adequately reflect the concerns of impacted communities, including the development and implementation of a [mapping tool](#) to track the socioeconomic influences on environmental health across the state.

HB4077 update (2021 session [SB246](#)) renames the EJTF to the Environmental Justice Council, expands volunteer membership to include a Youth representative, brings more state agencies under the jurisdiction of the Council, adds full time positions to provide administrative support to the Council and to assist in the work of creating the mapping tool. The estimated cost of this bill is \$1.3M, which includes commission expenses, multiple agency FTE and related software / analytical infrastructure.

The mapping will provide Oregon-specific data and information to give a holistic picture of intersecting environmental, social, and health impacts experienced by communities across Oregon. The bill would direct the Department of Environmental Quality and Oregon Health Authority, in consultation with the Institute of Natural Resources and the DAS Geospatial Enterprise Office (GEO) to create a mapping tool to correlate environmental science and health data with socioeconomic information. This is basically a collaborative effort, considering input from the Environmental Justice Council, other state agencies, local government, and officials, and interested parties plus partnerships with scientific institutions; enables state agencies to accurately identify environmental justice communities with specificity and granularity, an important cost-benefit approach to state agency resource and program management.

It is critical that we pass this environmental justice investment bill this session.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca L. Gladstone".

Rebecca Gladstone  
LWVOR President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Claudia Keith".

Claudia Keith  
LWVOR Climate Emergency Coordinator