



*The League of Women Voters of Oregon, established in 1920, is a 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 9, 2023

To: Chair Helm, Vice Chairs Hartman and Owens and Members of the Committee  
Email: [halnrw.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:halnrw.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov)

Re: **HB 2903 Implement Recommendations On Marine Reserves and Management Areas SUPPORT**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon (LWVOR) has strong positions on coastal issues as well as on addressing climate change impacts. The League completed a [study](#) of Coastal and Nearshore Oregon in 2012. As marine reserves were being considered, LWVOR wanted to educate our members and develop positions on reserves and on ocean energy. *“The League of Women Voters of Oregon supports the creation and operation of marine reserves and protected areas on the Oregon Coast. Siting and management of reserves should reflect a variety of factors, including habitat, species diversity, fisheries and tourism, with sound science being the most critical.”* It is with that background we support [HB 2903](#) to implement the recommendations of the Ocean Policy Advisory Council (OPAC) as provided in the bill.

The League supports not only the marine reserves program, but the recent recommendations of OPAC on the five Rocky Habitat Management Marine Conservation Areas and one Marine Education Area to add to our coastal science work of Oregon’s ocean and nearshore areas.

We were disappointed that the Governor’s Recommended Budget does not include additional grant monies for the Oregon Ocean Science Trust (OOST), nor these positions at the Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife. We were pleased by the 2021 legislature’s investment and will continue to ask for funding for OOST and for other opportunities to fund research on ocean acidification as well as other ocean science work.

Since the League’s testimony on behalf of the creation of OOST in 2013, nothing has changed as dramatically as the accelerated impact of rising ocean temperatures and the devastation of ocean acidification and hypoxia on Oregon’s fishing industry. Our coastal areas bear the brunt of this change, exacerbated by the economic devastation wrought by COVID-19 on small businesses and tourism dependent cities and towns along the entire coast of Oregon. Without understanding the science behind coastal and nearshore management efforts - towns, small cities and the marine industries that depend on thriving ocean ecosystems for survival, are at risk of failure, not only in the short term but also in the long-term development of new industries whose ultimate successes depend on scientific data to support their economic and ecological risk.

We urge your Support for **HB 2903** and ask that you move it “do pass” to Ways and Means for funding. Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Handwritten signature of Rebecca Gladstone in black ink.

Rebecca Gladstone  
LWVOR President

Handwritten signature of Peggy Lynch in black ink.

Peggy Lynch  
Natural Resources Coordinator