



*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 15, 2023

To: **Chair Representative Dacia Grayber, Representative Rick Lewis, Representative Thuy Tran, House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans**

Email: [hemggv.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:hemggv.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov)

Re: **HB 2763** – Establishes State Public Bank Task Force – SUPPORT

Establishes State Public Bank Task Force. Directs task force to study and make recommendations regarding establishment of state public bank.

The League of Women Voters U.S. Privatization Position states “that when governmental entities consider the transfer of governmental services, assets, and/or functions to the private sector, the community impact and goals of such transfers must be identified and considered. Further, the League believes that transparency, accountability, and preservation of the common good must be ensured.

A 2020 [LWVWA study](#) including a new position highlights why a private-sector bank’s management of public funds may not meet the U.S. League’s Privatization position; the arrangement does not appear to have sufficiently benefitted the states and municipalities.

In the bill we especially support in Section 1: the 21-person taskforce appears to represent all the major business sectors, jurisdictions, state agencies and communities most affected including a North Dakota Public bank current or former representative. Section 3 lists several important and urgent public infrastructure topics including affordable housing and a new bank concept defined by the Federal government; to capture millions of climate funding contingent on a Green Bank. Related, here is a link to a recent Congressional Research Service: [Public Banks: History and Recent Proposals](#) report.

Please support HB 2763; this important step to study the benefits and harms of a Public Bank of Oregon has the potential to improve how public funds are more visible, with more oversight, accountably managed and invested for the common good.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Handwritten signature of Rebecca Gladstone in black ink.

Rebecca Gladstone  
President LWV Oregon

Handwritten signature of Claudia Keith in black ink.

Claudia Keith  
Climate Emergency Coordinator