



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 27, 2023

To: Co-Chairs Dembrow and Pham and Members of the Committee
Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources

Re: **SB 5521** – Oregon State Marine Board Budget – Support

The League of Women Voters of Oregon believes in promoting an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest. **We have supported the aquatic invasive species program since its inception in 2009 because of the potential cost to our public infrastructure should those species get a hold in Oregon.** We are concerned that six vessels were discovered with zebra or quagga mussels. Although we appreciate that the inspection program has found these dangerous invasives, we worry that more might have arrived undetected. The cost to Oregon infrastructure could be HUGE.

In 2017, we first supported the Waterway Access Permit and Grant Program and are pleased that the program, passed in 2019, has increased access for Oregonians with multiple needs, but also has addressed protection of the water quality of our waterways by increasing bathroom access and increased clean and safe facilities.

LWVOR has advocated for addressing the many Abandoned and Derelict Vessels and has supported legislation for a number of years to **encourage the legislature to fund a program.** We are pleased that the Governor has supported POP 102 which will continue the use of the American Rescue Plan Act monies to continue to address this public health and safety issue. **We also need to work on a long-term program to fund this program** as we understand that these funds are focused on the Willamette River, but **this is a statewide problem.**

With this background, we **SUPPORT SB 5521.**

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Becky Gladstone".

Rebecca Gladstone
President LWVOR

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peggy Lynch".

Peggy Lynch
Natural Resources Coordinator