



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.

March 6, 2023

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

Re: **HB 5016** – Oregon Department of Energy Budget Bill – **Support**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon has strong positions on Climate Change, including Environmental Justice, active support of renewable energy, and energy efficiency as cost effective strategies to mitigate carbon emissions. The League also has positions on hazardous waste and on nuclear energy. **We first studied the issue of energy in 1972.** More recently, we addressed ocean energy in our **Coastal study**. All these positions come into play as we address the budget for the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE).

The League recommends this agency (as with others including the Governor’s Office) prioritize the opportunity to take advantage of all **federal funds** if they provide benefit for Oregonians. **Match dollars always need a cost/benefit analysis.**

We support ongoing funding for the Hanford Cleanup Board, Nuclear Safety, Emergency Preparedness, Radioactive Materials, and funding for the Energy Facility Siting Council work. League members are engaged in many of these issues. Specifically, we encourage adequate support for the small, but critical Nuclear Safety and Emergency Preparedness Division.

We understand fully the revenue/budget constraints the Legislature faces at this time, but we urge that all due care be taken when considering the details of the ODOE budget to ensure that this important, long-overdue work can be done in the careful manner it will require.

The League also supports the Oregon Climate Action Commission SB 522. In addition, we support the following POPs:

- 202 - Oregon Solar + Storage Rebate Program Limitation
- 203 - Oregon Solar + Storage Rebate Program Extension
- 204 - Wildfire Rebuilding Program Extension
- 205&206 - Heat Pump Programs
- 301 - Radioactive Waste Oversight Program Expansion
- 401 - Facility Siting Position
- 451 - Equity & External Engagement
- 452 - Community Capacity Building

Lastly, we support the continued improvement and use of the agency's Key Performance Measures (KPMs). Those KPMs are both a guide to the agency, but also a guide to the legislature to assure the agency has the fiscal ability to meet the goals set or explain how other sources of revenue will help them accomplish these KPMs.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.



Rebecca Gladstone
President LWV



Claudia Keith
Climate Emergency Coordinator

Cc: [Janine Benner](#), Director, Oregon Dept. of Energy
[Catherine MacDonald](#), Chair
[Oregon Global Warming Commission](#)
[April McDonald](#), Legislative Fiscal Office