



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 9, 2023

To: **Chair Helm, Vice Chairs Hartman and Owens and Members of the House
Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water**

Re: **HB 3100 – Requirements Concerning IWRS and New Advisory Committee -
Comments**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon has been a staunch supporter of the Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS). One of our members served on both the 2012 and 2017 Policy Advisory Groups. We were most pleased when the Water Resources Dept. provided a 2017-2022 [Progress Report](#) with input from the various state agencies responsible for implementing the IWRS.

Currently the Water Resources Department budget includes Policy Option Package 101 to assure the agency has a fulltime permanent staffer to “...effectively implement the IWRS, develop updates, and ensure coordination and integration among state, federal, and local agencies, as well as educational and non-governmental organizations.” By having a full-time staffer who can keep tabs on annual progress, we will have provided an opportunity to see the IWRS even more important as a guiding document for state agencies around the in-stream and out-of-stream water needs of all Oregonians.

With that in mind, we do not support the creation of yet another committee (Page 3, lines 16-21 and Section 2 of the bill). Advisory Committees take staff time and resources to help manage and provide assistance. This session **we should focus on supporting the ONE staffer**—a position we’ve never had in an on-going basis—to keep agencies moving forward on the IWRS. **It is most important that the legislature spend its money directly on implementation as provided on pages 13-14 of the Progress Report.**

Should you choose to move this legislation forward, we would ask that you delete references to an IWRS Advisory Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Becky Gladstone".

Rebecca Gladstone
President LWVOR

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peggy Lynch".

Peggy Lynch
Natural Resources Coordinator