



*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.*

Feb. 13, 2024

To: [Sen. Janeen Sollman, Chair](#)  
[Senate Committee on Energy & Environment](#)

Re: [SB 1559](#) – GHG Emission Reduction Targets – **Support**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon (LWVOR) believes that climate change is a serious threat facing our nation and planet, and supports climate goals consistent with the best available science that will ensure a stable climate system for future generations. The League advocates in favor of laws, regulations, and policies to mitigate climate change and its impact.

LWVOR strongly supports SB 1559, which would provide a much-needed update of Oregon’s greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction goals in ORS 468A.205, consistent with practices to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

The 2007 legislation established reduction goals for 2010, 2020, and 2050 based on the best science at the time, and created the Oregon Global Warming Commission (OGWC, now [Oregon Climate Action Commission](#), OCAC) to track the state’s progress toward achieving those goals. However, the interim goals are now markedly out of date and need to be replaced. We understand that California and Washington have recently updated their own GHG reduction goals.

SB 1559 would update Oregon’s current 2050 goal and replace the outdated interim goals with new goals for 2030 and 2040, in line with current science and global agreements. It also would incorporate Oregon’s vast potential to naturally store and sequester carbon through smart use of its forests, fields, marshes, and other natural resources. Advances in carbon sequestration and storage through Oregon’s abundant natural lands should enable the state to achieve its aspiration of net-zero emissions no later than 2050. Moving forward, the state’s climate policy should be focused on these updated targets.

We do not believe that a semantic distinction between “goals” and “aspirations” should impede the adoption of this bill. SB 1559 retains the term “goal” that has been in statute since 2007, but uses the term “aspiration” for the 2050 net-zero target that will depend on carbon sequestration and storage. In any case, the bill states explicitly that it would not authorize any additional regulatory action by an agency of the executive branch.

We urge your support for SB 1559.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca L. Gladstone".

Rebecca Gladstone  
Co-President LWVOR

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Claudia Keith".

Claudia Keith  
Climate Emergency Coordinator