



*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.*

January 30, 2025

To: [Representative Thuy Tran](#), Chair  
[House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans](#)

Re: [HB 2581](#) – Expanding the duties of the State Resiliency Officer – **Support**

The League supports HB 2581, which expands the responsibilities of the State Resiliency Officer by replacing the word “seismic” with the word “hazard” and expanding the hazard list to include other natural or manmade challenges Oregon is facing.

We support HB 2581 based on our efficiency in government position, for the centralized coordination it provides. Oregon has been experiencing increasingly devastating challenges recently, around the state, which make this action critical for emergency preparedness. These included major disasters in the last five years, storms with flooding and slides, COVID, and wildfires. In 2024 that expanded to extreme heat, further drought, the fentanyl crisis, and a tsunami warning.

Our support is also based on our positions supporting seismic hazards preparedness.

*The League of Women Voters of Oregon believes that all levels of government share the responsibility of coordinating, implementing and funding an effective program to mitigate Oregon's earthquake and tsunami hazards.*

Over the years, the League has supported numerous hazard preparations and we continue to recommend:

- Educate the public about the grave significance of Oregon's natural and manmade hazards and encourage preparedness.
- Improve the safety of transportation systems, including rail lines for spills. Establish alternate routes around bridges and overpasses which are likely to become unsafe.
- Establish warning signals and evacuation routes.
- Evaluate dams that threaten population centers and take remedial actions such as reinforcing dams and developing maps and downstream notification procedures.

We urge your support for HB 2581.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Handwritten signature of Lisa Benton in black ink.

Lisa Benton  
President LWVOR

Handwritten signature of Rebecca L. Gladstone in black ink.

Rebecca Gladstone  
Governance Issues