



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 4, 2025

To: [Sen. Lew Frederick](#) and [Rep. Emerson Levy](#), Co-Chairs

Members of the [Joint Committee](#) on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources

Re: [SB 5528](#) – DLCD budget – **SUPPORT with Comments and Additions**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon first studied land use in 1959 and has been active since in supporting our statewide land use planning program with local implementation. We believe that Goal 1 requires open access to the land use process and that all residents have a stake in the development of their communities. As we plan our cities and counties, **we are deciding where we will all live, work, shop, and play and how we'll get there.**

The League believes that the Department of Land Conservation and Development and the 19 Goals are critical to the health and well-being of Oregonians. Planning determines what kind of infrastructure communities will need. It helps assure our natural areas are protected, addresses natural hazards and that we have not only economically vital agricultural and forest lands, but lands for other industrial uses. Most of all, this session we support this agency's work on housing and homelessness.

The League has also studied coastal issues, updated our positions and has engaged in changes to the Territorial Sea Plan in 2021 where we noted: *“The LWVOR Offshore and Coastal Management policy supports responsible and responsive government management of the public's coastal and nearshore natural resources based upon: 1) A complete environmental assessment, cumulative impact analysis, and baseline data specific to Oregon and; 2) Recognition of coastal states and local government's rights, jurisdictions, and responsibilities to preserve and protect marine and coastal environment and economy.*

The LWVUS Climate Change policy recognizes that climate change is a serious threat facing our nation and planet. We support an interrelated approach to combating climate change—including through energy conservation, air pollution controls, building resilience, and promotion of renewable resources—is necessary to protect public health and defend the overall integrity of the global ecosystem.”

In April of 2024, we provided comments on the agency's proposed policy option packages. Our emphasis continues to be on both staff support for the agency AND support for local governments to implement new legislation and rules, including local government grants of **at least \$3.5 million in POP 501 and POP 503's \$1.7 million in technical assistance.**

We also support POP 504 to help local jurisdictions identify wetlands in their plans. We support this work in the Dept. of State Lands budget as well.

We support adding to this budget request funding for the Rocky Habitat Coordinator and for assistance to local governments to update their Natural Hazards Plans to address the very real challenges of wildfire across Oregon.

The League reiterates its **support for funding to help cities and counties assess and improve transportation networks** for safe evacuation and firefighting response, a lifesaving necessity as housing unit numbers and densities increase.

We support POP 100's budget adjustments to assure we follow the work of the Climate Adaptation Plan, the work of 24-26 other agencies. The [guidance document](#) is done, but the implementation has just begun. Planning at DLCDC is about [19 Goals](#) and linkages with all these agencies. Did we spend these last years working together to let this incredible collaboration sit on a shelf? **The League believes that addressing climate change not only by reducing greenhouse gases, but also adapting to our inevitable changing future is critical to all of Oregon.**

We don't see addressing **the need for better GIS Data Collection** in this budget as was requested in POP 500 in the Agency Request Budget, yet we all know that improving data will result in better decision making. The total needs assessment by DLCDC staff was for \$40 million for their collective work, yet the total POPS are less than \$11 million. The charge of this agency has become SO broad and affects so many Oregonians that **a review of the agency's budget discussion in April of 2024 would be instructive.**


The leadership and engagement in communities that is taking place with the DLCDC led offshore wind roadmap under HB 4080 (2024) is extraordinary. Recent work group proposals coming out of this effort have identified **a need for a Marine Spatial Planning Workgroup** that would develop recommendations on how spatial planning might identify areas of the ocean (in both federal and state waters) with the least conflict with existing ocean uses, ecosystems, habitats, and cultural resources. The League asks that you consider this additional funding.

We are pleased that the Oregon Dept. of Forestry and Dept. of Environmental Quality are finally addressing issues that will allow Oregon to meet EPA and NOAA requirements around clean water in our Coastal Zone Management Area. (See LWVOR's [Coastal Study](#) for those boundaries.) We hope that the EPA will release the monies to both DEQ and DLCDC to help fund the Coastal Division.

The League is happy to have a conversation on an amendment to our property tax system as mentioned in the Governor's [Housing Production Advisory Council's report](#) (See page 33—page 35 on the web) in order to help local governments have monies to implement these requirements and help with other planning and infrastructure needs. One idea is “Increase annual Maximum Assessed Value change to 5%”

We urge your Support for SB 5528 with the additional requests as outlined in this letter.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.



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President LWVOR



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Natural Resources Coordinator



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Cc: Joint Committee on Ways and Means Co-Chairs [Sen. Kate Lieber](#) and [Rep. Tawna Sanchez](#)

[Brenda Bateman](#), DLCDC Director