



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 6, 2025

To: [Sen. Jeff Golden](#), Chair, and [Sen. Todd Nash](#), Vice Chair

Members of the [Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire](#)

Re: [SB 511](#) - Establishes a removal/fill credit program with limited sideboards - **OPPOSE**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon believes that water is a resource that should be managed for the benefit of the public and as a sustainable habitat for all life forms. The League supports Oregon state policies and statutes that promote comprehensive long-range planning for conservation and management of ground and surface water and the improvement of water quality. The League believes that the interdependence of land use planning and water planning must be recognized and required at all levels of government. Our positions also recognize the need to manage our natural resources as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems.

From the League of Women Voters of Oregon water study "[Water in Oregon--Not a Drop to Waste](#)":

“Wetlands are considered “waters of the state” and are defined by soils, vegetation, and hydrology. Oregon, like the federal government, is committed to a goal of “no-net-loss” of wetlands. Mitigation is required if wetland loss is deemed unavoidable.”

League members have been engaged in wetlands issues and in the state’s removal/fill program since its inception. In 1987 we worked on and supported a bill for a pilot project to establish wetland mitigation banks to be overseen by State Lands. Members have served on Technical Advisory Committees for the Dept. of State Lands removal/fill program. It is with this background that we **OPPOSE SB 511**.

The League supported the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and the funding from the lottery to address just the issue brought by this bill—saving Oregon’s iconic salmon in “the Oregon Way” by providing opportunities for private landowners to assist in a program with specific sideboards that benefit both the salmon and the property owner.

We appreciate the sponsor’s recognition that our salmon need help. And that private landowners have a role to play. We believe that our current programs provide both those benefits, and **we ask that you not move this bill forward.**

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Handwritten signature of Lisa Bentson in black ink.

Lisa Bentson
President LWVOR

Handwritten signature of Peggy Lynch in black ink.

Peggy Lynch
Natural Resources Coordinator

Cc: [Vicky Walker](#), Director, Dept. of State Lands, [Debbie Colbert](#), Director, Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, [Sen. David Brock Smith](#), Chief Sponsor