



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 27, 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 5529](#) – Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA) Budget – Support

The League of Women Voters of Oregon supports our statewide land use planning program with local implementation. Since 1959 we have been studying and participating in the development of legislation related to land use in Oregon. **Land use planning is about where people live, work, shop, play and how they get there.** Since 1979 when LUBA was created, Oregonians have had access to a special court where complicated land use cases could be heard and adjudicated in a timely manner.

The League encourages our members to engage at the local level on land use issues. We are especially supportive of engagement when Comprehensive Plans and Development Codes are developed or amended. But there are times when the applicant or the public believes that the local decisions are not reflective of the local Plan or Code. LUBA provides a way for **adjudication related only to the law.** When possible, they defer to the local government's interpretation of their Plan and Code. **Enforcement of our land use laws is complaint driven.** LUBA provides a venue to resolve legitimate complaints in a timely manner.

LUBA's mission is to simplify the appeal process, speed resolution of land use disputes, and provide consistent interpretation of state and local land use laws.

In 2023, we encouraged the Court to request moving forward on an electronic filing and case management system in 2025. All our natural resource agencies (and I suspect others) are in need of electronic modernization! We are pleased that the Governor included this work as POP 500 in the LUBA budget. This budget request was one of the recommendations of the Governor's Housing Production Advisory Committee that received almost unanimous approval. We hope this Committee will also approve.

We urge your support of SB 5529.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Bentson".

Lisa Bentson
President LWVOR

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

Peggy Lynch
Natural Resources Coordinator

Cc: [H. M. Zamudio](#), LUBA Board Chair