



February 1, 2016

TO: House Committee on Energy and Environment

Chair Representative Jessica Vega Pederson
Vice-Chair Representative Mark Johnson
Vice-Chair Representative Jeff Reardon
Representative Cliff Bentz
Representative Deborah Boone

Representative Dallas Heard
Representative Ken Helm
Representative Paul Holvey
Representative Jim Weidner

Re: HB 4036 The Clean Electricity and Coal Transition Bill - **SUPPORT**

The League of Women Voters is a grassroots nonpartisan, political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. Since the 1950's, the League has been at the forefront of national efforts to protect air, land and water resources. The League's position is that members work to "Preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem, with maximum protection of public health and the environment" with a focus on demanding pollution prevention. Additionally, the League's Social Policy is very clear: "Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans."

Our testimony in support of HB 4036 is consistent with the League's national resource and social policy positions and the Oregon League's previous statements for sustainable energy priorities: "The Northwest cannot turn back to business as usual, but must whole heartily embrace new clean energy resources along with aggressive conservation and efficiency measures."

HB 4036 is a unique collaboration between the Oregon major utility providers and the environmental community to phase out coal power by 2030, to expand the renewable energy commitment to 50% by 2040, to accelerate the ability of the utility sector to meet Oregon's carbon cap reductions by 2035, and to demonstrate that decarbonizing the grid can be done affectively and affordably.

HB 4036 and partner bill SB 1574 have the potential to place Oregon in a leadership position with a comprehensive climate policy framework to meet our state's greenhouse gas emission reduction goals. The transition away from coal to healthy, clean energy comes with multiple benefits. These include local job creation, improved air quality, public health, cost savings from stable electricity prices, and the protection of our life sustaining stable climate / planet.

The League of Women Voters urges your support for HB 4036. It is a healthy, economically beneficial path for future generations.

Sincerely,

Norman Turrill
President, LWVOR

Cathy Frischmann Claudia Keith
Climate Change Portfolio Team