



February 1, 2016

To: Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

Chair Senator Chris Edwards
Vice-Chair Senator Alan Olsen
Senator Michael Dembrow
Senator Floyd Prozanski
Senator Doug Whitsett
Email: senr.exhibits@state.or.us

Re: SB 1574 – Healthy Climate Bill - **SUPPORT**

The League of Women Voters is a grassroots nonpartisan, political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. Upon reviewing the carbon emission reduction targets for 2020 enacted by the Oregon legislature in 2007 -“10% below 1990 levels”, the League of Women Voters of Oregon supports SB 1574 as a fair and effective means for Oregon to enforce achievement of these goals. We experienced in 2015 the results of climate change: record high temperatures, draught, and wildfires. Acting now will help avoid the risks and catastrophic costs of climate change.

The League of Women Voters of the United States has been at the forefront of national efforts to protect air, land and water resources. The League’s position is 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.

SB 1574 is the cornerstone of a comprehensive climate policy framework based on a greenhouse gas cap and invest program with benefits that: create local good paying jobs in our growing clean energy sector; put a cap on greenhouse gas emissions; significantly reduce emissions consistent with the best science; build healthier communities by reducing medical bills and sick days from chronic disease like asthma; use the free market through a greenhouse gas cap and invest program; ensure fairness by assisting and investing in disadvantaged and rural communities; reduce Oregon’s risk of drought and record breaking wildfires; safeguard our agriculture, tourism, salmon and shellfish industries; create a structure for financial accountability of dirty pollutions emitted into our air; and use the free market for the greenhouse cap and invest program that allows Oregon the flexibility to link to successful market based programs.

A group of Oregon children, part of Our Children's Trust organization, has a climate change law suit in Oregon's US District Court. According to Senator Chris Edwards, "this bill (SB 1574) is a mechanism to accomplish what the lawsuit says we ought to accomplish -- an umbrella policy that provides certainty that Oregon will be meeting its greenhouse gas reduction goals. It's one more shoulder to the wheel."¹ Our League members are actively working all across the country to address greenhouse gas reduction and reduce the effects of climate change. Fossil fuel reduction is part of that effort. The pollution from fossil fuels not only increases greenhouse gas emissions, but the pollution from their usage across the Pacific returns to Oregon via air currents and adds to CO₂ PPM (now over 402 PPM), 14.2% higher than what is deemed required for a stable, eco-friendly climate.

The League of Women Voters of Oregon strongly recommends the passage of SB 1574. We owe it to our children.

Sincerely,



Norman Turrill
LWVOR President



Cathy Frischmann
Climate Change Portfolio Team



Claudia Keith

¹ <http://www.eugeneweekly.com/20160128/lead-story/climate-politics>