



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF OREGON**

*The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a 98-year-old 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 12, 2018

To: Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources  
Co-Chairs Senator Lew Frederick and Representative Brad Witt

Re: Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Environmental Data Management System (EDMS)  
Budget Request –**Support**

The League of Women Voters has strong positions on both water quality and quantity, as well as air quality, solid waste and hazardous waste—perhaps every program that DEQ oversees. LWVUS was active in encouraging passage of the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts and continues to advocate to protect that foundational work. In Oregon, members have studied these issues, recognizing the value of having clean air, clean water and land for public health for today and generations to come.

The League supported Policy Option 161 in the 2017 agency budget because data-driven policy decisions will provide the best outcomes and help focus limited state dollars on the programs that will help us meet the goal of abundant clean water and clean air for all in the future. We understood that the actual purchase dollars would be held to this 2018 session while the agency continues to work with stakeholders, the Governor and Legislative Fiscal Information Officers to expend state dollars wisely on the best system possible. We continue to support an “off-the-shelf” set of programs as much as possible to reduce long-term agency system upgrades and rewrites of code and we see that their current request supports that concept. We also presume that this system will, in some way, connect with other agency data systems so the information is accessible to all, including the general public.

We understand that the DEQ EDMS project has achieved Stage Gate 2 endorsement from the Office of the State Chief Information Officer. We support this process to protect taxpayer dollars on information systems. Now that this requirement has been met, we ask that the funding request of \$1,798,959 general funds be allocated to continue work toward providing a modern system that will be of use, not only to DEQ, but will provide needed data in a centralized location to other state agencies, local governments, private business and other Oregonians. We also support the separate bonding request of approximately \$5 million to begin purchase of the actual system.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this budget request.

Norman Turrill  
LWVOR President

Peggy Lynch  
LWVOR Natural Resources Coordinator

cc: Richard Whitman, DEQ Director  
Senator Peter Courtney and Representative Nancy Nathanson, Ways and Means Co-Chairs