



The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a 101-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.

May 13, 2021

To: House Revenue Committee
Representative Nancy Nathanson, Chair

Re: [HB 2021-A46](#) – Clean Energy – **Support**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon believes that climate change is a serious threat facing our nation and planet. The League believes that an interrelated approach to combating climate change—including through energy conservation, air pollution controls, building resilience, and promotion of renewable resources—is necessary to protect public health and defend the overall integrity of the global ecosystem. The League of Women Voters of Oregon supports efforts to secure equal opportunity for all and to promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of all of our residents.

We supported the -5 and -9 amendments for HB 2021 and were pleased to see them both in the -23 Amendment, which was adopted. We were concerned about the lengthy negotiations in the Revenue Committee but see that the -A46 amendment improves the bill and therefore **we strongly urge the passage of HB2021-A46.**

We recognize that transportation produces significant greenhouse gas emissions and its pollutants differentially harm environmental justice communities. For many forms of transportation, electrification is the best way to reduce their emissions. This will be true only if there is zero-emission electricity to power them. Having strict targets starting in 2030 with 100% by 2040 is a necessary step.

We appreciate that the interests of those other than the electricity providers are integrated throughout the bill. Examples include the Community Benefits and Impacts Advisory Groups and the addition of representatives of environmental justice communities and the renewable energy workforce to the work group on small scale and community-based renewable energy projects. We appreciate the responsible contractor labor standards for large-scale projects, especially with respect to apprenticeship training programs. An aspirational target for at least 15 percent of total work hours is required to be met through outreach, recruitment, and retention of women, minority individuals, veterans and people with disabilities.

We also recognize the incorporation of concerns about resource adequacy and costs to customers, and **especially the increased attention to resilience in the amendment.** We believe that the community renewable energy projects can help with all of these and that the 50-million-dollar appropriation would allow work on them to be started quickly.

We have been following the Cap and Reduce program under Executive Order 20-04 (now called Climate Protection Program) and have been concerned that neither the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) nor the Public Utility Commission (PUC) currently has the authority to regulate greenhouse gas emissions in the generation of imported electricity. We believe this legislation will give the DEQ and the PUC the authority they need to fully carry out and even exceed the specifications in Executive Order 20-04. We are also pleased that it includes new direction for the PUC to lead a public process to help identify resiliency standards for evaluating utility actions.

At a previous public hearing, the mayors of several cities were supportive of the ability to have city-wide rate schedules for renewable or nonemitting resources with the opt-out option, which is now the only option provided in the bill.

We are glad to see that the section on fossil fuel plants from HB 2021 A was not modified by the -A46 amendment and still limits new and expanded plants to “generate only nonemitting electricity.” We recognize that the way “nonemitting electricity” is defined may allow for carbon capture and storage.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this important legislation.



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