



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF OREGON**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a 97-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 1, 2018

To: Ms. Kelly Hammerle
National OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program Manager
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (VAM-LD)
45600 Woodland Road
Sterling, VA 20166-9216

Re: Offshore Drilling / **Oppose**

The League of Women Voters 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. Specific to this position, the League of Women Voters United States (LWVUS) jointly with League of Women Voters of Oregon (LWVOR) filed in Sept 2016 an Amicus Brief in the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon in the Case of *Julianna et al v. United States*. LWVOR signed in March 2016, with 22 other groups and elected officials, an Amicus Brief in the State of Oregon Lawsuit. These lawsuits require that the state and federal government to implement a *climate* recovery plan.

Just recently the League joined with [132 organizations](#) to state our opposition to the Trump Administration plan for expansion of Offshore Drilling – which brings unacceptable risks to our oceans, marine life, coastal residents and communities, existing economies, and our climate. Additionally, the LWVOR opposes oil and gas exploration and development within the state's territorial sea, and requests the state to oppose any federal lease sales within the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone off the Oregon coast.

For more than 30 years in Oregon and Washington, bipartisan elected officials have protected the coast from federal drilling. A Cascade Subduction Zone earthquake, a dangerous fault system capable of producing a magnitude 9 or greater temblor that many expect, has the potential to cause unprecedented problems with oil rigs and bring pollutants to our beloved shores. The ecological integrity, renewable natural resources, and beneficial uses of Oregon's ocean water must be protected.

Through painstaking, multi-year public review processes that documented a groundswell of bipartisan support for a new clean energy direction, our country has been making changes to reduce the footprint and risks of offshore drilling. This represents a foundation that should be built upon, not rejected at the behest of a handful of private oil companies. We urge you to respect the livelihood of the millions who depend on healthy oceans for fishing, recreation, and tourism dollars, and the millions of Americans who have already made clear their support for preserving, not drilling off our nation's coastlines.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this critical policy.

Handwritten signature of Norman Turrill in black ink.

Norman Turrill
LWVOR President

Handwritten signature of Claudia Keith in black ink.

Handwritten signature of Cathy Frischmann in black ink.

Claudia Keith & Cathy Frischmann
LWVOR Policy Coordinator/Portfolio

Copy: Governor Kate Brown, Rep Tina Kotek and Senator Peter Courtney