



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF OREGON**

April 18, 2011

To: Senate Finance and Revenue Committee
Senator Ginny Burdick, Chair

RE: SJR 26, SB 754, SB 553 - Support

The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a non-partisan, grassroots political organization that encourages informed citizen participation in government. We support the concepts put forward in the constitutional amendment SJR 26 to revise the kicker allocation, place the Rainy Day into the Oregon Constitution, and the establishment of a Universities Stability Fund. We support the use of SB 754 to accomplish the statutory requirements need to accompany the amendment. We also are in support of the purpose of SB 553, which would require the deposit of General Fund interest dollars into the Rainy Day Fund.

The importance of reserve funds to the economic stability of Oregon cannot be overemphasized. The League has supported funding reserves and providing adequate and stable financing of state programs and services for decades. With regard to post-secondary education, the League believes there should be state funding for a strong, high-quality system of higher education that includes sufficient funds to improve the general excellence of the system, retains and attracts quality faculty, and provides a broad spectrum of opportunities for professional, vocational and personal enrichment of qualified citizens.

We applaud the work of the Finance and Revenue Committee in bringing these proposals forward, and urge you to develop the necessary legislation and move it forward.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.


Marge Easley
President


Kappy Eaton
Governance Coordinator



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