



February 14, 2013

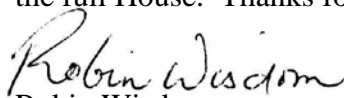
To: House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Representative Brian Clem, Chair  
Members of the Committee  
([maria.kelly@state.or.us](mailto:maria.kelly@state.or.us))

Re: HB 2257 – amending water right certificate for names/addresses only – SUPPORT

The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a grassroots, nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. In 2011 we updated our Water Policy (<http://www.lwvor.org/lwvimages/Positions-IforA12-13.pdf> page 21 online) after a 3-year study of water quantity and quality laws and issues. The League was privileged to have a representative serve on the Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS) Policy Advisory Group. One of the most important principles to come from the IWRS work has been that we need more and better data in order to assure we have abundant high quality water now and in the future. We believe that HB 2257 is a modest but important bill that simply aids the Water Resources Department in updating their data base related to water rights.

Oregon's waters belong to the public. However, we have laws that allow the beneficial use of that water. Our water laws provide for opportunities to apply to use our water by, among other ways, applying for water right certificates. Many original certificate owners have since passed away or properties have been sold. In order to better manage these water rights for both the current certificate holder and the public, it is important to maintain good records at the Water Resources Department. HB 2257 provides authority to the department to update these records.

We ask that you pass HB 2257 out of committee with a resounding “do pass” recommendation to the full House. Thanks for considering our request.

  
Robin Wisdom  
President

  
Peggy Lynch  
Natural Resources Coordinator

cc: Phil Ward, Director, Water Resources Department  
Richard M. Whitman, Governor's Natural Resources Policy Advisor

LWVOR Education Fund Water Reports:  
[Part 1: Regulating Water in Oregon](#) (36 pgs; pdf)  
[Part 1: Water in Oregon 2009](#) (html)  
[Part 1: Executive Summary](#) (4 pgs; pdf)  
  
[Part 2: Issues and Perspectives](#) (40 pgs; pdf)  
[Part 2: Water in Oregon 2010](#) (html)  
[Part 2: Executive Summary](#) (4 pgs; pdf)