



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF OREGON

May 13, 2013

To: Senate Committee on the Environment and Natural Resources
Senator Jackie Dingfelder, Chair
Members of the Committee

Re: HB 3491-A – Columbia River Treaty: SUPPORT

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, grassroots political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. The League first studied water issues and adopted positions in 1969; updated in 1977, 1985 and April of 2011. In 1979 we focused on water resources of the Columbia River and the Columbia River Task Force. We are currently following the Columbia River Treaty 2014 Review, have a volunteer specifically assigned to this important matter and have provided input into that process.

We recognize the importance of the Treaty to Oregon and encourage the Legislature to adopt HB 3491A. We are aware that the Water Resources Department has assigned staff to this Treaty and the Water Resources Commission receives regular reports, so the requirement to report regularly to the Legislature is reasonable. The League believes it is even imperative that the Legislature be kept informed because involvement by the Legislature and the Governor to assure the State Department follows up on and actively participates in treaty negotiations on behalf of the United States is critical to Oregon. Regular reports to this body will help raise public awareness around this important issue.

Thank you for considering our request to move this bill to the floor with a “do pass” recommendation.

Sincerely,

Robin Wisdom
President

Peggy Lynch
Natural Resources Coordinator

cc: Senator Hansell and Senator Whitsett
Richard Whitman, Governor’s Natural Resources Advisor