



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF OREGON**

June 5, 2013

To: Senate Committee on Rules  
Senator Diane Rosenbaum, Chair  
Members of the Committee

Re: SB 300 – Agency Directors and Boards and Commission Appointments –  
Opposed in Part with -3 Amendments

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, grassroots political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. The League has a clear position on agency directors. We believe the governor should be granted the power to appoint department heads with the consent of the Senate.

The League believes strongly in the division of powers. Oregon's independent Boards and Commissions provide that balance between the Governor who recommends appointments and the Senate who then confirms. Having terms of office for these appointments allows for continuity between administrations. It would be disastrous to have the members of these independent Boards and Commissions removed with each new Governor. We would lose their historical perspective and knowledge of issues. Also, should there be a conflict between the Governor and the Senate, would we have completely vacant Boards and Commissions?

League members follow a range of these Boards and Commissions as they work to implement the policies set by the Legislature. They are hardworking and knowledgeable and provide a link between these policies and the citizens affected by their implementation. We ask that you continue the current method for appointing these important volunteers for Oregon: appointments recommended by the Governor and confirmation by the Senate with staggered terms of office to allow continuity.

Thank you for considering our request to further amend the bill to recognize this balance of power.

Sincerely,

Robin Wisdom  
President

Peggy Lynch  
Natural Resources Coordinator

cc: Senator Betsy Johnson  
Richard Whitman, Governor's Natural Resources Advisor