



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF OREGON**

March 7, 2013

To: Senate Rural Communities and Economic Development
Senator Arnie Roblan, Chair
Members of the Committee

Re: SB 502 – Prohibits LCDC from adopting rules related to parks: OPPOSE

The League of Women Voters is a grassroots nonpartisan, political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. The League has studied land use issues since 1959 and has strong positions in support of Oregon's statewide land use planning system with local implementation. Members were involved in statewide hearings that supported the first ten goals and the four additional goals added as a result of that statewide effort. We supported the addition of the Willamette Greenway goal and were pleased that the four coastal goals were included in 1976.

Senate Bill 502 seems to amend many of those goals in an attempt to narrow the Land Conservation and Development Commission's responsibilities toward administering those goals on behalf of one land use: parks. The broad sweep of prohibitions included in this bill seem to violate the required mechanism for amending goals.

The League supports state and local parks. But we believe there is a process for designating parks lands, particularly those that may impact our important agricultural and forest lands. We believe there must be rules for what activities can occur in parks. There have been issues these last few years related to a variety of activities on or near these important industrial lands that have caused conflicts with farming and forestry. Parks and campgrounds can be good neighbors—or not. That's why it is important to allow for rulemaking as needed to address competing uses and assure that our statewide goals are met.

The League believes there is a robust set of [guidelines](#) (linked below) to be used by LCDC for considering rulemaking and that this legislation is not the appropriate way to have that conversation. We ask that you reject SB 502.

Sincerely,

Robin Wisdom
President

Peggy Lynch
Natural Resources Coordinator

<http://www.oregon.gov/LCD/docs/publications/citinvguidepoldev.pdf>