



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF OREGON**

March 13, 2013

To: House Committee on Human Services and Housing
Representative Carolyn Tomei, chair

Re: HB 2477 - Earned Income Tax Credit - SUPPORT

The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a non-partisan, grass roots political organization that encourages informed citizen participation in government. We support HB 2477 which extends the critical tax credit for Oregon's working poor.

The League supports programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families, including quality of health care, income assistance, housing and public transportation access. Given the status of Oregonians in poverty, an estimated 660,000, and that one in four children are hungry, continuing the Earned Income Tax Credit fits the criteria for extension and should be a no-brainer.

The League also supports an increase in the tax credit from 6 percent to 8 percent as reflected in the Governor's proposed budget for 2013-15. HB 2850 makes a 9 percent extension and builds in the incremental increases to the tax credit over succeeding biennia to 18 percent. While we feel that is an excellent goal and should be seriously considered, we want to ensure that the current tax credit is extended now.

The League strongly urges the committee to recommend extending the Earned Income Tax Credit to the Joint Tax Credit Committee.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Robin Wisdom in cursive.

Robin Wisdom
LWVOR President

Handwritten signature of Kappy Eaton in cursive.

Kappy Eaton
Governance Coordinator