



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF OREGON**

February 12, 2015

Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources
Sen. Richard Devlin, Co-Chair
Rep. Dan Rayfield, Co-Chair
Members of the Committee
(WaysandMeans.NaturalResourcesSub@state.or.us)

Re: HB 5028 – Land Use Board of Appeals Budget (LUBA) - SUPPORT

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, grassroots political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. The League has a number of positions on Citizen Access and Land Use Planning. We believe that the Land Use Board of Appeals provides a mechanism for addressing concerns related to local land use decisions in a timely manner. Decisions are made by judges whose expertise is in land use law. **Their mission:**

- ***simplify the appeal process;***
- ***speed resolution of land use disputes; and***
- ***provide consistent interpretation of state and local land use laws.***

Our land use planning system provides for broad citizen involvement in development of Comprehensive Plans and Development Codes. Those documents are then used to guide development in our communities. Sometimes there are questions regarding the administration of those Plans and Codes. That's when LUBA's role is critical. Cases are brought to LUBA by both applicants and others who participated at the local level. Enforcement of land use laws is a complaint driven system. All parties must have access to adjudication of those complaints.

We ask support for the increase in the staff attorney position to full time. We supported the return of the staff attorney in 2013 and understand that position has been helpful to the general public in answering questions about this special legal process. We are returning to a growth in land use applications which may require increased caseloads.

We ask for your support for this budget request.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Robin Wisdom in black ink.
Robin Wisdom

President

Handwritten signature of Peggy Lynch in black ink.
Peggy Lynch

Natural Resources Coordinator