



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF OREGON**

February 18, 2015

To: House Committee on Rules
Representative Val Hoyle, Chair
zoe.larmer@state.or.us

Re: HB 2374 Signature Gathering SUPPORT

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan, political organization that encourages and educates citizens to participate in government at all levels. The League supports HB 2374. This is a simple proposal that puts an exclamation point to the protection of the Oregon initiative system.

Direct democracy, the right for citizens to legislate changes to state law through the initiative process, was enacted in Oregon in 1902. In 2002, Oregonians amended the Constitution to strengthen and protect that right by prohibiting the paying of petition gatherers by the number of signatures obtained. HB 2374 specifically implements that decision and allows the Bureau of Labor and Industry to punish violators who abuse the law. Such action protects the integrity of the initiative process and the possibility of fraud.

Both the Secretary of State and the Labor Commissioner are given oversight responsibilities in the regulating of Oregon's direct democracy system. HB 2374 is an important element in that process. League urges the committee to move it to the House for passage.
Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Handwritten signature of Robin Wisdom in cursive.

Robin Wisdom
President

Handwritten signature of Kappy Eaton in cursive.

Kappy Eaton
Governance Coordinator