



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF OREGON

March 9, 2015

To: Senator Chris Edwards, Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on the Environment and Natural Resources
beth.reiley@state.or.us

Re: SB 266 w/-2 amendments, Place-based Planning--SUPPORT

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, grassroots political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. The League has had positions on water policy and planning since 1977. In 2011, after three years of study, we updated and combined our water policy positions on quality and quantity in recognition of their intrinsic connection. The League was proud to have participated in the development of the Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS).

With those actions in mind, we strongly support the passage of SB 266 with the -2 amendments so that the Water Resources Department can offer grants and assist local planning efforts. It was clear from our work on the IWRS that broad-based local efforts will be the most successful mechanisms for addressing both water quality and quantity in Oregon. Each basin has its own special challenges and opportunities. Local planning is the best use of grant funds and of staff time and support.

We urge your adoption of the -2 amendments that clarify the need for balanced representation and the nexus to the IWRS, and that you unanimously move SB 266 with the -2s to the floor with a “do pass” recommendation.

Thank you for considering our recommendations.

Sincerely,

Robin Wisdom
President

Peggy Lynch
Natural Resources Coordinator