



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF OREGON

April 7, 2015

To: Senator Brian Boquist, Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness
Email: maria.i.hernandez@state.or.us

Re: SB 94, DLCDC Rulemaking on Natural Hazards--**SUPPORT**

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, grassroots political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. The League supports our state land use planning program with local implementation. Land use planning is about where people live, work, play, shop and how they get there.

We also have a comprehensive position adopted in 1995 on Hazards and Seismic Risks. These two positions come together as we consider how to protect Oregonians from the increasing threat of floods, landslides and other natural hazards. Earthquakes and risk of tsunamis are the focus of the Seismic position.

“The League of Women Voters of Oregon believes that all levels of government share the responsibility of coordinating, implementing and funding an effective program to mitigate Oregon’s earthquake and tsunami hazards. Priority must be given to mitigation that protects human life and safeguards critical life support systems.”


“When siting critical facilities, tsunami run up and inundation as well as seismic factors such as severe ground shaking, liquefaction, massive landslide potential and subsidence should be considered.”

The state has recognized the importance of this issue by adopting Goal 7, Natural Hazards, as one of the top 10 statewide planning goals. But, with the effects of our changing climate on our landscape becoming more and more serious and the good work of the Department of Geology and Mineral Industries in preparing tsunami inundation maps, it is time to work together to develop rules to guide our state and local governments as they address these serious public safety issues.

The League has testified before the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) a number of times these past few years in support of additional action related to these increasing threats. LCDC has taken some limited steps to assist coastal jurisdictions in relocating schools and in providing for storage units for life saving supplies in case of emergencies. Although considered during development of their biennial work plan, Goal 7 rulemaking has not made it to the top of the list. We ask that this Legislature assist the department by taking action to assure this work is done.

The League asks that you support SB 94 and pass it to the full Senate with a strong “do pass” recommendation.

Sincerely,


Robin Wisdom
President


Peggy Lynch
Natural Resources Coordinator

cc: Jim Rue, Director, Dept. of Land Conservation and Development
Ian. P. Madin, Interim State Geologist, Dept. of Geology and Mineral Industries
Richard M. Whitman, Governor’s Natural Resources Policy Director