



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF OREGON**

April 15, 2015

TO: Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
Senator Michael Dembrow  
Senator Chris Edwards, Chair  
Senator Alan Olsen, Vice-Chair  
Senator Floyd Prozanski  
Senator Chuck Thomsen  
Beth.Reiley@state.or.us

Re: SB 477 with -1 amendments - Coal to Clean Energy- SUPPORT

The League of Women Voters is a grassroots nonpartisan, political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. Since the 1950's, the League has been at the forefront of national efforts to protect air, land and water resources. The League's position is that members work to "Preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem, with maximum protection of public health and the environment" with a focus on demanding pollution prevention. Additionally, the League's Social Policy is very clear: "Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans."

Our testimony in support of SB 477 is consistent with the League's national resource and social policy positions and the Oregon League's leadership on coal to sustainable energy priorities which clearly dates back to 2004. "The Northwest cannot turn back to business as usual but must whole heartily embrace new clean energy resources along with aggressive conservation and efficiency measures."

SB 477 provides a clear leadership position on moving Oregon utility users to a more responsible economic and ecosystem friendly solution over a ten year period. Fortunately, **the transition away from coal to healthy, clean energy comes with multiple benefits. These include local job creation, improved air quality, cost savings from stable electricity prices, and the protection of our life-sustaining stable climate / planet.** "SB 477 follows the same principles as the Boardman Power Plant decision: phase out the burning of coal on a timetable that makes it affordable, avoids investing millions in environmental retrofits, and most importantly, protects utility customers from the future financial risk associated with coal and carbon." Oregon Citizens Utility Board.

The League of Women Voters urges your support for SB 477 with the -1 amendments. We ask that you move the bill to the floor so each of you can stand up in support of a healthier Oregon.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Robin Wisdom in black ink.

Robin Wisdom  
President, LWVOR

Handwritten signature of Claudia Keith in black ink.

Claudia Keith  
Natural Resources Climate Change Portfolio