



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF OREGON**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a 97-year-old grassroots nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We envision informed Oregonians participating in a fully accessible, responsive, and transparent government to achieve the common good. LWVOR Legislative Action is based on advocacy positions formed through studies and member consensus. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party.

March 17, 2017

To: House Committee on Energy and Environment
Representative Ken Helm, Chair
Representatives Mark Johnson and Karin Power, Vice Chairs

Re: **HB 2669** – Community Right to Know/Toxics Reporting - **SUPPORT**

The League of Women Voters of the United States has lengthy and strong positions on a citizen's right to know, resource management, environmental protection and pollution control. The League supports the preservation of the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem and maximum protection of public health and the environment. The League supports making public records accessible. The League also supports full disclosure of pollution data. Because of these positions, the League strongly supports HB 2669.

LWVOR believes the Toxics Reporting and Community Right to Know bill before you will greatly benefit Oregonians. The key to the bill is the materials balancing section. When businesses must report the inputs and outputs of their toxic or harmful chemicals, and that information is publicly available, Oregonians will be exposed to much less toxic leakage and fewer harmful emissions.

LWVOR believes the bill has multiple benefits for cities, counties and their residents when they choose to enact the requirements in this bill:

- Cities and counties can choose to implement the program. They can also choose to collaborate on a central location for data from several counties or cities. Such a process would save administrative costs. In Eugene where this system is already in place, the publicly accessible website is run by the local Fire Marshal.
- The program is funded by the reporters of the toxins.
- The methods of collection are already in place—through local Fire Marshals and through the new DEQ statewide emissions inventory.
- The thresholds for reporting will eliminate the requirement for most small facilities, although toxins are reported by the pound, not by the ton as is done by DEQ.

We can cite many examples where this legislation would have helped local jurisdictions better protect the public's health by working with businesses to assure excessive use of toxins did not occur. Almost every day, one hears of a trichloroethylene (TCE) toxic plume in groundwater in the U.S. These plumes, affecting water, soil and air might have been eliminated if reasonable toxins reporting occurred.

Citizens want and need to know what chemicals they are exposed to. They have a right to know. This bill will enable Oregonians to gain information important to their health. **LWVOR strongly supports and strongly urges you to pass HB 2669.**

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Handwritten signature of Norman Turrill in black ink.

Norman Turrill
LWVOR President

Handwritten signature of Marilyn T. Koenitzer in black ink.

Marilyn Koenitzer
LWVOR Natural Resources Air Quality Portfolio