



**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 20, 2017

To: House Committee on Energy and Environment  
[Representative Ken Helm](#), Chair  
[hee.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:hee.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov)

Re: **HB 2020** Oregon Energy & Climate Board as oversight/advisory body - **COMMENTS**

The League of Women Voters has been at the forefront of national efforts to protect air, land and water resources. The League's position is 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. Specific to this position, the League of Women Voters United States (LWVUS,) jointly with League of Women Voters of Oregon (LWVOR), filed in Sept 2016 an Amicus Brief in the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon in the [Case of Julianna et al v. United States](#). LWVOR also signed in March 2016 with 22 other groups and elected officials an [Amicus Brief in the State of Oregon Lawsuit](#).

Additionally, this past August the League wrote to Angus Duncan, Chair of the Oregon Global Warming Commission, asking for the Commission to review the outdated greenhouse gas emission targets, to reset the reduction targets to [ensure](#) we do our part to keep climate warming below 1.5 c and to end this century below 350 ppm CO<sub>2</sub>. Our letter suggested:

*Specifically address how best to update and implement our State of Oregon Climate Change Plans, provide appropriate funding for this and manage all our resources and related state policies with Climate Change awareness:*

- *focusing on the constitutional Public Trust Doctrine (trustee fiduciary requirements to the next generations), and*
- *applying a disciplined science-based climate recovery planning approach as the foundational framework.*

The League supports appropriate efforts to change state organizational structure/framework to better address and manage Climate Change mitigation and adaptation prioritized goals. In general, we are pleased that both the House and Senate have several bills proposing approaches to address how best to strengthen the Oregon Global Warming Commission with the support of the Department of Energy to ensure optimized funding, coordination and management of Oregon Climate Policy. We encourage the process to begin in 2017 and to be complete no later than early 2018.

This testimony recognizes that the greatest environmental/moral challenge facing us at this time is climate disruption. **There is an urgency, according to current science, to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions fast enough to avoid serious damage to the global climate ecosystem.**

Handwritten signature of Norman Turrill in black ink.

Norman Turrill  
LWVOR President

Handwritten signature of Claudia Keith in black ink.

Claudia Keith  
LWVOR Climate Change Portfolio

cc: Jason Miner, Governor's Natural Resources Policy Director ([Jason.miner@oregon.gov](mailto:Jason.miner@oregon.gov))  
Ruchi Sadhir, Governor's Energy Policy Advisor ([ruchi.sadhir@oregon.gov](mailto:ruchi.sadhir@oregon.gov))