



**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 & Environment
[Representative Ken Helm](#), Chair
hee.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

Re: **HB 2710** – Addresses reduction of energy use in buildings – **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](#) and LWVOR 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Global Warming Commission copying the Governor and legislative leadership, asking for his commission to review the outdated greenhouse gas emission (GHGE) targets, reset the reduction targets to [ensure](#) that we do our part to keep climate warming below 1.5 C and end the century below 350 ppm CO₂.

The League supports accelerated comprehensive over-all systems efforts to begin to integrate Oregon Climate Policy, which addresses energy, transportation, land use, building codes and affordable housing planning (including appropriate siting), and which ensures our Greenhouse Gas Emission Targets are achieved in partnership with our regional partners.

We support bills addressing improvement of residential and commercial building codes to ensure our building codes help meet the above stated GHGE reduction goals. Oregon could optimally follow the Net Zero Energy Building Code example that begins to take effect in California 2020.

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: Ruchi Sadhar, Governor's Energy Policy Advisor (Ruchi.Sadhar@oregon.gov)