



**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.

April 9, 2017

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

Re: *HB 3343-1 Climate Test* - **Support**

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 and ensuring justice and public safety for all people. Specific to this position, the League of Women Voters United States (LWVUS) jointly with **League of Women Voters of Oregon (LWVOR) have amici standing supporting Our Children's Trust state and federal lawsuits relating to the public trust doctrine and a new fundamental right to a safe climate.**

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Global Warming Commission copying the Governor and Legislative Leadership, asking for his commission to review Oregon's outdated greenhouse gas emission (GHGE) targets, reset the reduction targets to [ensure](#) we do our part to keep climate warming below 1.5 c and end the century below 350 ppm CO2.

The League supports Oregon Climate Policy which addresses accelerated comprehensive over-all systems efforts which ensures the above-mentioned Oregon Green House Gas Emission Targets are achieved. **HB 3343 *Climate Test* is essential pillar partnered with SB 557 *Cap and Trade* Climate policies to address this challenging generational justice and public safety for all people imperative.**

HB3343 Climate Test Highlights:

- The fossil fuel industry wants to use Oregon as a gateway to Asian markets for their fuels. To do so, they need to build pipelines and export terminals of record-breaking scale, i.e. infrastructure mega-projects.
- Oregon regulations do not currently consider climate when reviewing permit applications for fossil fuel mega projects - that needs to change.
- Under the Climate Test, the Oregon Dept. of Energy would coordinate all environmental permit processes, which currently are handled individually with no communication between agencies.
- Additional considerations like health impacts on environmental justice communities and impacts on indigenous Tribes are part of the Climate Test.

- Lastly, the Climate Test will examine the economic viability of a fossil fuel mega-project in a global energy economy that will limit global warming to well below 2 degrees C.
- If the likely economic benefits under the "2 degree C scenario" do not outweigh the cumulative negative impacts, the permit will not be issued.

Additional insights are available at Sightline Institute [article](#) published April 6, 2017.

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.



Norman Turrill
LWVOR President



Claudia Keith
LWVOR Climate Change Portfolio