



**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.*

June 21, 2017

To: Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources  
Senator Lew Frederick and Representative Brad Witt, Co-Chairs

Re: HB 2007 A, Requiring Local Development Code Changes - **Oppose**

The League of Women Voters supports the 19 statewide land use goals and the careful process established by the Land Conservation and Development Commission to promote both conservation and development of land. We oppose HB 2007 A because we believe it seeks to pre-empt land use decisions that should first take place at the local level, where citizen participation is a crucial part of the process.

As members of the Oregon Housing Alliance, **we favor development of low-income housing and programs that assist households in need of a safe place to live.** We also, however, have a long history as advocates for Oregon's statewide land use planning system **with local implementation** and that is the basis of our opposition to this bill.

**HB 2007 A usurps local control.** Reducing the deadline to approve building permits from 120 days to 100 days, even for a specific type of development, is an inappropriate fiscal imposition on local governments. Remember that this bill is meant to set these requirements on cities and counties large and small. Requirements to change local development codes without a local public process may well create a backlash from citizens who expect that development code changes occur after local public hearings. We especially object to the "Emergency Clause" contained in this bill as it would not even give local jurisdictions an opportunity to warn their citizens of these proscribed changes.

The League supports accessory dwelling units (ADUs) and more expanded housing and advocated for using the "Table 5" List created as a part of the simplified UGB process...and got it added to HB 4079 (50-acre pilots). **But that Table provided cities with choices.**

Rather than forcing these policies on local jurisdictions, the League would prefer to see a shared staff position between Oregon Housing and Community Services and the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) who would assist local governments with their housing issues rather than the DLCD information gathering required by this bill. Much of this information has already been collected as a result of the rulemaking in HB 4079. **(See League testimony on HB 3373 in support of the staff funding request.)** We also support a variety of funding requests to assist with the development of additional housing for those most in need—said requests are in other Ways and Means Committees.

We ask that you reject this legislation and instead provide staffing so that model codes can be developed and local education can occur to help local jurisdictions consider the policies currently required under this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.



Norman Turrill  
LWVOR President



Debbie Aiona  
LWVOR Housing Policy Coordinator

cc: Speaker Tina Kotek

House Housing Committee Chair Alissa Keny-Guyer

Ways and Means Co-Chairs Senator Richard Devlin and Representative Nancy Nathanson

Jason Miner, Governor's Natural Resources Policy Advisor