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To: Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction, Medford, OR Public Hearing, February 23, 2019—Co-Chair Senator Michael Dembrow, Co-Chair Representative Karin Power

Re: HB 2020 – Oregon Climate Action Program (formerly Clean Energy Jobs Bill) – **SUPPORT**

Co-Chair Dembrow, Co-Chair Power, Committee members. My name is Shirley Weathers, Climate Change Coordinator for the League of Women Voters of Rogue Valley. The League of Women Voters has long worked to protect air, land, and water resources. The national League's position is to "Preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem, with maximum protection of public health and the environment." A 2018 resolution reads; "The League of Women Voters supports a set of climate assessment criteria that ensures that energy policies align with current climate science. These criteria require that the latest climate science be used to evaluate proposed energy policies and major projects in light of the globally-agreed-upon goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees C, informed by the successful spirit of global cooperation as affirmed in the UN COP 21 Paris agreement." Additionally, LWVOR and LWVUS jointly have *amici* standing with the Our Children's Trust, *Juliana v USA* federal lawsuit.

We hear those with concerns about what this bill would do and we acknowledge that change from our past practices of unfettered fossil fuel extraction and combustion will have consequences for several sectors. From our review of the bill and knowledge of the process that developed it, this Committee has worked hard to minimize negative impacts, including on low-income and other vulnerable communities, as well as to maximize the positives, such as creating stable jobs while we transition from polluting energy sources to clean ones. An increase in the cost of carbon and methane-based fuels is unavoidable—we will all share some burden there. But we simply cannot continue as we are. Mother Nature's law is preeminent. The science is clear. Whether or not the world will be inhabitable by 2100 depends on what we do now to both reduce GHG emissions AND remove excess CO2 from the atmosphere. We in the Rogue Valley have spent the better part of the summer months indoors for the past three years due to smoky and seriously polluted air. Jackson County 2017 [tourism](#) revenue fell by \$3 million and \$1 million in related wages were lost. Health costs have gone up. The tragic plight of California is moving in our direction. And wildfire is not the only threat. We're on track to suffer water shortages that will jeopardize our agricultural sector, another cornerstone of our economy. Oregon must join other states working to form a climate stabilization network. We can help show the way to states with less foresight. We must act now. The costs of not acting are too great.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment and thank you, Committee, for taking on this difficult, but critical task.