



*The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a 101-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.*

February 3, 2021

To: [House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Management](#)  
[Representative Paul Evans](#), Chair [Testimony Submission Form 2021](#)

Re: [HB 2894](#) – the OEM will create and maintain a hazardous locations database – **Support**

The League of Women Voters has long supported emergency preparedness for effective emergency response. This bill calls for a hazardous location database. A [cited statute requires](#) that “a state of emergency must specify the geographical area covered by the proclamation. Such area shall be no larger than necessary to effectively respond to the emergency.” Paraphrasing from a [CISA resource](#): it would improve coordination between state and local governments, first responders, and community stakeholders for information access to plan, prepare, and respond to emergencies in our communities.

Oregon’s “hazardous locations” could include current COVID-19 zones, wildfires and slide areas, seismic and tsunami zones. This bill includes an [ORS reference](#) to “The appearance of a novel or previously controlled or eradicated infectious agent or biological toxin that may be highly contagious”. The League has bolstered the need to use the best tools at hand for various emergencies: “designating emergency routes that minimize health, safety, and environmental risks” for nuclear waste spills, aiming the 1986 Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act at community response plans for chemical facility spills, and in 1997, for public awareness of harmful toxins in the environment. [LWVUS is outspoken on COVID-19 advocacy](#):

*Investments are needed to modernize and strengthen state and local immunization infrastructure, ... stand up additional vaccination sites, ensure the accessibility of vaccination sites for people with disabilities and older adults, **modernize immunization information systems**, and support outreach and campaigns to target hard to reach populations.*

Thank you for this hazardous location database concept. Note, hazardous locations will need physical access, supported by continued LIDAR coverage, as we currently urge with [HB 5010](#), for both the already covered urban areas and throughout Oregon. We still submit that a comprehensive, searchable database of Oregon’s elected officials, as proposed in [HB 2210 \(2019\)](#), would be especially invaluable in emergency conditions. We continue to advocate for funding to define geospatial administrative district boundaries (elections, taxing, etc.) because they are necessary for every aspect of Oregon’s governance, including this one. To address transparency concerns for this limited access database, we urge for refreshed public education, to reinforce emergency preparedness.

We hope "evergreen" development will be used for an eye to future benefits. Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca L. Gladstone". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Rebecca Gladstone  
LWVOR President