



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.

March 11, 2021

To: House Committee on Water
Rep. Ken Helm, Chair
Rep. Mark Owens and Jeff Reardon, Vice Chairs
Members of the Committee

Re: **HB 3093-8** – Addressing Harmful Algal Blooms: Agency Coordination and Staff – **Support**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon has extensive positions on water quality and quantity. A member serves on the Oregon Health Authority Drinking Water Advisory Committee. Members were engaged these past few years on searching for statewide answers to the increasing harm and occurrence of algal blooms in waters of the state. We have supported legislation to address failing septic systems and supported the Dept. of Agriculture's work on nonpoint sources of pollution. We have engaged in educational programs to assist urban dwellers on their responsibility to address nonpoint pollution. Members have lost animals to the deadly effects of those blooms. It is with that background that we thank the committee for considering adoption of the -8 amendments and moving the bill forward. We understand that might include a movement to the Ways and Means Committee where we will continue to support any funding included in this bill. As we understand it, the bill as potentially amended would provide staff for both DEQ and OHA to provide communication and outreach to the public and to provide that critical statewide coordination with the Dept. of Agriculture and Dept. of Forestry as well as cities, counties and special districts who provide Oregonians with safe drinking water.

While we appreciate that Rep. Holvey brought forward HB 2821 and support his vision for addressing the issue of harmful algal blooms statewide, we are hopeful that the passage of an amended HB 3093 will move the state forward in 2021.

Thank you for the hard work of the many members of the many work groups on this important issue and for the opportunity to support this legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca L. Gladstone".

Rebecca Gladstone
LWVOR President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peggy Lynch".

Peggy Lynch
LWVOR Natural Resources Coordinator