



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 23, 2021

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

Re: **HB 2145 with amendments** – Well Modernization and Addressing Safety Issues – **SUPPORT**

The League has strong positions on both water quality and quantity. We have studied water issues since 1969. Addressing the issues around the drilling and maintenance of wells is a public health and safety issue. The League is appreciative of the many competent well drillers in this state and their commitment to assuring all wells drilled follow strict guidelines. The continuing education program helps assure those standards continue to be met. However, we also recognize that only about 30% of wells are inspected and 10% of those inspected have deficiencies.

HB 2145 with proposed amendments modernizes the Water Resources Department's responsibilities around well construction, abandonment, repair and replacement. As the legislature did in 2019 with modernization of their dam safety program, it is now time to address issues around wells. With the recent wildfire tragedies, the opportunity to also consider a program similar to the onsite septic grant and loan program related to wells is timely.

As this committee considers all the elements of this bill and proposed amendments, we welcome a discussion around a possible increase in start-card fees in order to assure this program is funded. Again, this is an issue of public health and safety. We look forward to the committee's conversation around this bill and encourage your support.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss 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