



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 24, 2021

To: House Energy and Environment Committee
Representative Pam Marsh, Chair

Re: [HB 3278](#) – Seaweed as feed for livestock– **Support**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon believes that climate change is a serious threat facing our nation and planet. In particular we believe that an interrelated approach to combating climate change is necessary to protect public health and defend the overall integrity of the global ecosystem.

We believe that the study in [HB 3278](#) is a reasonable first step in evaluating a promising way to decrease methane emissions from cattle raising.

[Sector Data](#) from the Department of Environmental Quality show that “enteric fermentation” causes methane livestock burps containing 2.7 million metric tons of CO₂ equivalent in Oregon each year. This is more than 20 % of the total emissions allowed by Executive Order 20-04 in 2050. Recently published [research](#) has confirmed that cattle fed a small supplement of a particular type of seaweed belch up to 82% less methane. There was no noticeable effect on the taste of the beef or milk.

“The next challenge, according to the researchers, will be finding ranchers enough supply of *Asparagopsis taxiformis*, a crimson marine grass that drifts on waves and tides, given there isn’t a bountiful supply of it available to farms.” This type of seaweed only grows in warm waters; however, we agree it should be investigated whether seaweed that could be grown safely in Oregon’s coastal waters also has the effect on cattle. Growing seaweed used for the feed supplement could also help sequester carbon dioxide and reduce ocean acidification.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for this legislation.

Rebecca Gladstone
LWVOR President

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LWVOR Climate Emergency Portfolio