



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 25, 2021

To: [House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources](#)
Rep. Brad Witt, Chair
Rep. Vikki Breese-Iverson and Zach Hudson, Vice Chairs
Members of the Committee

Re: **HB 2386** – Creates Oregon Independent Science Review Board – **SUPPORT**

The League of Women Voters believes that natural resources should be managed as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems. It is critical that such management be based on independent scientific studies and that the public have a voice when decisions are made.

HB 2386 would establish an Independent Science Review Board within the Institute for Natural Resources at Oregon State University to objectively review scientific studies, would engage a variety of stakeholders and move Oregon toward solutions to complex issues in our natural resource areas. The legislature and others could call on such a Review Board to address the many challenges that this committee and others have struggled with over the years. Although there will always be disagreements among Oregonians on issues of policy, the addition of this Independent Board might assist in moving us toward answers that are science-based. Oregonians understand differences of opinion, but usually accept statements of fact. As we continue to have challenges and issues that might need to be resolved with trade-offs in the natural resource area, at least we would have a fact-based scientific report upon which to consider when making policy around natural resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation and we urge your support.

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