



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 30, 2021

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

Re: **HB 2246** – Prohibits DSL from Requiring Certain of Their Duties – **Oppose**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon believes that water is a resource that should be managed for the benefit of the public and as sustainable habitat for all life forms. The League supports Oregon state policies and statutes that promote comprehensive long-range planning for conservation and management of ground and surface water and the improvement of water quality. The League believes that the interdependence of land use planning and water planning must be recognized and required at all levels of government.

From the League of Women Voters of Oregon water study “Water in Oregon—Not a Drop to Waste:

Wetlands are considered “waters of the state” and are defined by soils, vegetation, and hydrology. Oregon, like the federal government, is committed to a goal of “no-net-loss” of wetlands. Mitigation is required if wetland loss is deemed unavoidable.

League members have been engaged in wetlands issues and in the state’s removal/fill program since its inception. In 1987 we worked on and supported a bill for a pilot project to establish wetland mitigation banks to be overseen by State Lands. Members have served on a Technical Advisory Committee for the Dept. of State Lands removal/fill program and participated in the most recent “assumption” discussions. Wetlands help clean water and provide some protection from flooding. **It is with this background that we ask that you not pass HB 2246, a bill that has a narrow and unclear focus and an assumption regarding DSL’s enforcement of our wetlands rules and laws.**

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