



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.

February 8, 2021

To: Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery
Senator Jeff Golden, Chair
Senator Dallas Heard, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee

Re: **SB 126 – Change SS Estuarine Reserve Boundary in Statute – Support**

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that natural resources such as forests and the animals and plants living within them should be managed as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems.

The League of Women Voters of Oregon has been a longtime supporter of the South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, an incredible special place for research, for educational opportunities and for recreation and the first such reserve in the United States. We supported the commitment by the State Land Board to maintain this asset and have been pleased that federal funds, local land donations, land exchanges and financial donations have allowed this wonderful facility to expand to protect a plethora of species. By clearly recognizing the expanded boundaries of the Reserve in passing this legislation, additional federal funding resources might become available.

The Reserve is one of Oregon's treasures. The property additions are providing increased habitat for our iconic salmon. Salmon is an important economic resource for our coastal communities. The Reserve is another recreational destination that also, after Covid, will attract national and international visitors, yet another economic value for the south coast. **We urge your support for SB 126.**

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 Resource Coordinator

Cc: Vicki Walker, Director, Dept. of State Lands (Vicki.Walker@state.or.us)
Bree Yednock, South Slough Reserve Manager (Bree.Yednock@state.or.us)