



The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a 102-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 2, 2022

To: [SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT](#)
[Senator Kayse Jama](#), Chair
Members of the Committee

Re: [SB 1536](#) – Emergency Heat Relief for Renters - **SUPPORT**

The League of Women Voters believes that climate change is a very real threat facing our nation and planet. LWV Oregon supports climate related policies which are consistent with the best available science and that will ensure a stable eco-system for future generations. The League also has positions on air quality, land use, water quality, healthcare, housing, and others. We prioritize public policy and related budgets which ensure environmental justice with a just transition for workers and all impacted communities.

Climate change is causing more extreme climate events such as the “heat dome,” which caused many deaths, the ice storm with extremely low temperatures, serious wildfire, drought, and flooding. Now is the time for Oregon to help its residents in need adapt to these extremes; [SB 1536](#) is a good start in that direction.

The Emergency Heat Relief for Renters bill (SB 1536) will help ensure we are taking care of our most vulnerable Oregonians, as the Pacific Northwest weather becomes more extreme, by removing barriers for renters to install cost effective improved air quality, cooling, and heating (HVAC) recommended clean energy solutions and livable spaces in new or recently renovated rental buildings. The bill will also provide funding for the Oregon Department of Human Services to help communities establish extreme weather shelters during high-heat events and for the Oregon Department of Energy to incentivize landlords to install efficient and cost benefit HVAC solutions. There is also limited ARPA [funding available in the recent federal infrastructure](#) bill.

Well-funded policies and related programs that protect vulnerable people lag far behind the growing need. This bill with expected -1 amendments will begin to provide real solutions on what is expected to keep community members across Oregon safe during periods of extreme heat and cold, and provide financial assistance to achieve that outcome for renters and property owners.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca L. Gladstone".

Rebecca Gladstone
LWVOR President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Claudia Keith".

Claudia Keith
Climate Emergency Coordinator