



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 9, 2022

To: [House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use and Water](#)
[Rep. Ken Helm](#), Chair
[Rep. Susan McLain](#) and [Mark Owens](#), Vice-Chairs
Members of the Committee

Re: [HB 4060](#) – Natural Resources Grants Coordinators – **SUPPORT with Concerns if Amended**

The League of Women Voters of the United States *believes that natural resources should be managed as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems.* The League of Women Voters of Oregon bases many of our natural resource positions on air, land and water on this basic premise. We also have positions on funding a variety of services for Oregonians. HB 4060 focuses on the ability of Oregon to access federal funds as they become available in their many agency budgets that would help Oregon's 14 natural resource agencies meet their various missions.

The concept of having one or more staff in Oregon to search out federal funding opportunities and write grant requests on behalf of our natural resource agencies is one the League supported in 2019 as the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture put forward a Policy Option Package (POP) that would fund one state grant coordinator to do this work. We understood at that time, Oregon's natural resource agencies advocated for this position with one voice. We were disappointed when this POP was not funded because it might have improved multi-agency collaboration on such requests. Often the federal budget does not align with our specific agencies so that collaboration is really important.

We were most pleased that this Committee offered this bill in 2022 as we see opportunities for federal funding as never before and found what seemed like a good location for these positions. Our concern is with a rumor that, instead of being housed with the Sustainability Board, the positions would be housed at the Oregon Dept. of Transportation (ODOT). We do hope that ODOT will work to assure access to federal transportation funds, but express concern because ODOT is not considered one of those 14 natural resource agencies and the need for federal grant requests for natural resource agencies is sorely needed.

We urge your Support for HB 4060 and hope that our concerns about the location of these positions are addressed in any amendments to the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

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

Rebecca Gladstone
President LWVOR

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peggy Lynch".

Peggy Lynch
Natural Resource Coordinator