



*The League of Women Voters of Oregon, established in 1920, is a 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 14, 2023**

To: **Chair Lieber, Vice Chair Knopp and Members of the Committee  
Senate Committee on Rules**

Email: **[srules.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:srules.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov)**

Re: **SB 38 – Restricting Permitting – OPPOSE**

*The League of Women Voters believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibilities, adequate financing, and coordination among the different agencies and levels of government. We also have numerous positions in support of Clean Air, Clean Water, addressing Climate Change, Coastal Management, Wetlands Management and other areas where the three agencies listed in SB 38 regulate on behalf of all Oregonians.*

**We ask that you reject SB 38 as being too broad and lacking clarity related to the issues and concerns addressed by the proponents.** We do believe in a fair playing field and would hope that all state agencies would process permits under the rules and regulations which they are required to apply.

Our friends at the League of Oregon Cities, Special Districts Association of Oregon and Oregon Association of Clean Water Services **provide clarity** in explaining why SB 38 could be unfair and be costly to the state—as well as potentially harmful to Oregonians if permits are processed without meeting the full requirements under state and federal law.

We were most appreciative of Senator Steiner’s acknowledgement that natural resource agencies may well need additional staff in order to fulfill any time limits in this bill. And we were interested in hearing from the proponents that fee increases could help with timeliness. We work with them often to balance the interests of and costs to the business community with the interests of and costs to all Oregonians. We do want Oregon businesses to be successful, and public projects too, but we also need them to comply with public health and safety regulations on behalf of all of us.

**We urge you to not move this bill out of committee.**

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  
Natural Resources Coordinator