



*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 22, 2023

To: **Chair Pam Marsh**

**Climate, Energy and Environment**

Re: **HB 3166** — Whole-home Retrofits and High-efficiency Electric Home Rebates— **Support**

We wish to express support for HB 3166, one of the League of Women Voters (LWVOR) priority bills for this session.

Because the League of Women Voters of Oregon believes that climate change is a serious threat facing our nation and planet, LWVOR supports climate goals and policies that are consistent with the best available climate science and that will ensure a stable climate system for future generations. It is obvious that climate change is going to cause more extreme climate events such as the “heat dome,” which caused many deaths and the ice storm with extremely low temperatures. Now is the time for Oregon to help its residents adapt to these extremes; HB 3166 will prepare programs to begin as soon as possible after the Federal rules are announced and allow Oregon to maximize funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).

The bill is designed to provide energy efficiency savings by making grants and rebates available to all Oregonians, with 40% of the IRA funding earmarked specifically for environmental justice households per the Justice40 initiative. For people in marginalized communities these upgrades could greatly lower their energy burden from inefficient heating and poor insulation. It is estimated that the funding from these programs could realistically cover upgrades for up to 1% of Oregon households or approximately 17,600 homes.

We agree strongly with provisions of HB 3166 leveraging Federal and State resources to increase savings to individual program participants and use State funds more cost-effectively. We also applaud the much-needed mandate for creating a publically available, single resource for information and technical assistance program. This will help everyday families understand their options and make the right choices for their homes.

In addition to the details itemized above, the League would strongly support the addition of language directing the department to engage with stakeholders who work closely with BIPOC community groups, Tribal organizations, and residents of rural and coastal towns. LWVOR would like to echo the words of ODOE Director Janine Benner in urging program developers to invite individuals who work closely with underserved communities to be part of program design and implementation as it would serve to enhance the program’s effectiveness and increase connection to disadvantaged communities.

We urge your support for HB 3166 and thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Rebecca Gladstone  
President LWVOR

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Climate Emergency

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