

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.

March 1, 2023

To: Chair Golden, Vice Chair Girod and Members of the Committee

Senate Committee on Natural Resources

Email: snr.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

Re: SB 221 – Establishes DOGAMI Subaccount for E-Permitting System Fee Collections -

SUPPORT

The League of Women Voters of Oregon has a comprehensive position adopted in 1995 on Hazards, providing us with the opportunity to advocate for the Dept. of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI). We more recently <u>studied</u> Hard Rock Mining and adopted more positions upon which to advocate.

On February 16, we provided <u>testimony</u> on <u>SB 5510</u>, DOGAMI's budget request, POP 101, to implement a paperless permitting program. In 2021, we were interested in seeing this agency work with the Dept. of Environmental Quality on a shared e-permitting system. Since it was decided that DOGAMI would continue to move forward as a separate agency, it is important for this system to be funded. SB 221 creates a new Subaccount for the surcharge collected to fund their new e-permitting system. We assume that the program, once up and running, will continue to be self-supporting by fees to users of the system. This bill assures that the monies collected will be stored in an account for paying for the expenses of this new system.

With that in mind, we support <u>SB 221</u>. We also support <u>SB 220</u> and <u>SB 222</u> to establish the permitting system and assure the system, once active, can collect those fees.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

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