



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 6, 2023

To: **Co-Chairs Dembrow and Pham and Members of the Committee**
[Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources](#)

Re: **[HB 5028](#) – Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA) Budget – SUPPORT**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon supports our statewide land use planning program with local implementation. Since 1959 we have been studying and participating in the development of legislation related to land use in Oregon. **Land use planning is about where people live, work, shop, play and how they get there.** Since 1979 when LUBA was created, Oregonians have had access to a special court where complicated land use cases could be heard and adjudicated in a timely manner.

The League encourages our members to engage at the local level on land use issues. We are especially supportive of engagement when Comprehensive Plans and Development Codes are developed or amended. But there are times when the applicant or the public believes that the local decisions are not reflective of the local Plan or Code. LUBA provides a way for **adjudication related only to the law.** When possible, they defer to the local government's interpretation of their Plan and Code. **Enforcement of our land use laws is complaint driven.** LUBA provides a venue to resolve legitimate complaints in a timely matter.

LUBA's mission is to simplify the appeal process, speed resolution of land use disputes, and provide consistent interpretation of state and local land use laws.

The League appreciates the [LFO Budget Review](#) as it helps explain the reason for the agency not being able to meet its KPM targets this last biennium. Covid was a factor in many Oregon lives and our LUBA Court was not immune. The League does follow the agency KPMs because we believe they help us all understand the role that LUBA plays in land use matters. We look forward to an increase in meeting those targets next biennium.

We also hope that the Court will be able to move forward on the electronic filing and case management system next biennium. All our natural resource agencies (and I suspect others) are in need of electronic modernization!

We urge your support of HB 5028. Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Becky Gladstone".

Rebecca Gladstone
President LWVOR

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

Peggy Lynch
Natural Resources Coordinator