



*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 13, 2023

To: **Co-Chairs Sen. Dembrow and Rep. Pham and Members of the Committee**  
**Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources**

Re: **HB 5008 – Columbia River Gorge Commission Budget – SUPPORT**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon have followed Columbia River Gorge issues for many years. League members have served on the Gorge Commission in the past. We have provided comments in support of the Gorge's protected status under the National Scenic Area Act. We also have strong positions on Oregon's land use planning program and in addressing climate change.

We were pleased by the adoption of an updated Management Plan that includes a Climate Action Plan and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. We want **to support the Director's request that DLCD be budgeted to provide a continuation of small planning grants for those Gorge counties.**

In 2021 we supported Phase 1 of the Access Database Replacement, so **we support implementation of that work by supporting POP 101, Phase 2 of this project.** To complement that work and continue updated GIS data, **we support an increase to full-time for the GIS manager in POP 102.** These technical positions are difficult to fill as half-time so increasing to full-time will also help with any future recruiting for this important work. The Commission's success with the Vital Indicators Program should indicate the targeted work they do with limited funds—in this case, the one-time planner to lead this work.

We hope the committee **will consider the packages in Washington State's budget for additional legal counsel resources, a diversity and equity initiative and a climate change related position.** Certainly, this very special place needs additional attention related to the effects of climate change.

**We urge your Support for HB 5008 with the additions in the Washington State budget.**

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Becky Gladstone".

Rebecca Gladstone  
President LWVOR

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peggy Lynch".

Peggy Lynch  
Natural Resources Coordinator