



*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 16, 2023

To: **Chair Janeen Sollman**

**Senate Committee on Energy and Environment**

Re: **SB 869-1**— Build Smart from the Start — **Support**

The League of Women Voters is calling for prompt action to cut Oregon’s GHG emissions. We are **reminded** that The Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) unequivocally warns that exceeding 1.5°C warming (overshoot) has dangerous and irreversible consequences, even if temperatures might eventually be brought back below that level.

SB 869-1 calls for new construction to be healthier and more resilient against growing climate harms. Oregon growing population needs a lot more affordable housing, and other buildings like schools and hospitals. Recognizing that it’s more affordable to build all-electric with heat pumps, and more climate friendly if new buildings start out energy efficient and emit less greenhouse gases, it makes sense to capture the energy and emissions savings while we can.

SB 869-1 proposes to synchronize building codes with steady progress toward achieving a 60% reduction in energy use in the construction of new buildings by 2030. The bill establishes a goal of achieving the 60% target and updating Reach codes at the same time as building codes are updated.

The League is pleased with the ambitious objectives for addressing climate change in the residential and commercial buildings sector that the Resilient Buildings legislation represents. In reality, this sector, which **equals a 30% share** of total GHG emissions in Oregon, is almost as large as the transportation sector.

We urge your support for SB 869-1.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation. We hope you will consider the urgency of ending the emissions Oregon is generating today and act without delay.

Rebecca Gladstone  
President LWVOR

Claudia Keith  
Climate Emergency Coordinator

Arlene Sherrett  
Climate Emergency Portfolio