



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 870-1](#)**— Building Performance Standard— **Support**

The League of Women Voters believes that climate change is a very real threat facing our nation and planet. LWV Oregon supports climate related policies which are consistent with the best available science and that will ensure a stable eco-system for future generations.

Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in residential and commercial buildings represent [30%](#) of total GHG emissions in Oregon. The League believes we should address these emissions head on to meet the climate goals Oregon agreed to under the Paris Accord. SB 870-1 establishes a program to reduce a large portion of these emissions.

HB 370-1, subtitled the Building Performance Standard, would set standards for energy efficiency and pollution reduction for large, commercial buildings, with enough transition time and financial incentives for owners to make the needed upgrades. The proposed energy performance standard would require owners of buildings not meeting the target to agree to increase their energy efficiency over time but would never require costs for compliance be more than the value of associated energy bill decreases and would not require building owners to get rid of equipment that has not reached end-of life.

The League is urging that attention be drawn back to the [IPCC \(AR6\) reports](#), which when taken together, reflect an undeniable scientific consensus about the urgency of the climate crisis, its primary causes, and the irreversible harm that will occur if warming surpasses 1.5°C, even temporarily. The reports make clear: A rapid fossil fuel phase-out and rollout of renewable energies alongside energy efficiency and demand-side measures remain the clearest and most certain path to avoid overshoot.

We urge your Support for SB 870-1.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this important legislation as it goes a long way towards addressing climate harms in Oregon.

Handwritten signature of Rebecca Gladstone in black ink.

Rebecca Gladstone
President LWVOR

Handwritten signature of Claudia Keith in black ink.

Claudia Keith
Climate Emergency Coordinator

Handwritten signature of Arlene Sherrett in black ink.

Arlene Sherrett
Climate Emergency Portfolio