



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.

April 18, 2023

To: **Co-Chairs Sen. Frederick and Rep. McLain and Members of the Committee**
Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education

Re **HB 5025** – **Higher Education Coordinating Commission Oregon Youth Works Program - SUPPORT**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon has followed the work required under [SB 762](#) (2021) to address the many issues surrounding wildfire in Oregon. Section 21 and 22 of SB 762 established the **Oregon Conservation Corps and the Oregon Conservation Corps Fund**. Since that time, the grants awarded to nine geographically disbursed local youth development organizations have been helping to prepare local communities for future wildfire risks. By partnering with the Oregon State Fire Marshall's office, the Oregon Dept. of Forestry and local fire chiefs around the state, many local properties received assistance. Also, we now have a group of 279 young adults ready to join the wildfire workforce.

The Oregon Conservation Corps is a ready-to-go again program and only needs a new infusion of monies to continue the good work of this program. The League asks that you fund the program that provides assistance to Oregonians, trains new young workers on critically needed skills and may well save the state monies by reducing wildfire in Oregon. **We ask that you provide funds to continue this important program.**

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