



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.

February 8, 2024

To: Chair Golden, Vice Chair Girod and Members of the Committee

[Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire](#)

Re: [SB 1511](#)–**Neighborhood Grant Program for Community Resilience to Wildfire–SUPPORT**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon supports SB 1511 and its aim to establish a Neighborhood Protection Cooperatives Grant Program for voluntary wildfire risk reduction. The League has been studying land use since 1959, and that work continues. We have a long record of supporting the 19 statewide land use goals, and policies that promote both conservation and development of land as a natural resource. We support both Goals 3 and 4, protecting our agricultural and forest lands, Goal 7, natural hazards, and Goal 14 which focuses on complete communities.

We believe that one of the most important roles of government is to protect the public’s health and safety. SB 1511 warrants our support because it will help enable Oregonians to make communities safer and more resilient in the face of increasing wildfire risk. We provided [testimony](#) in support of [SB 509](#) (2023) which shared this same objective.

We encourage the committee to pass SB 1511 and send it to Ways and Means to be funded so our neighbors can better prepare themselves for our wildfire-filled future. League members live all over our state, and some were affected by the major wildfire events in recent years. We will work with others to move this bill forward to help address one of the many issues around wildfire and the protection of Oregonians. **A theme that has been repeated over and over in recent informational meetings is that we can’t simply suppress our way out of this.** SB 1511 provides one much needed step in the direction of going beyond suppression to help communities help themselves.

We urge your support for SB 1511 and the requested funding. Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca L. Gladstone".

Rebecca Gladstone
Co-President LWVOR

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carolyn Mayers".

Carolyn Mayers
Wildfire Portfolio