

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 4, 2026

To: **Senator Janeen Sollman**, Chair

Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

Re: **SB 1526** – Financing clean energy and resilience projects – **Support**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon (LWVOR) believes that an interrelated approach to combating climate change—including through energy conservation, air pollution controls, building resilience, and promotion of renewable resources—is necessary to protect public health and defend the overall integrity of the global ecosystem.

LWVOR supports SB 1526, which would create a new tool to provide more affordable, accessible long-term financing for projects that strengthen Oregon's clean energy and resilience infrastructure. In the face of lower state revenue and the loss of significant federal dollars, this bill responds to the need for alternate funding sources to enable the state to continue vital investments in clean energy and resilience.

SB 1526 would direct the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) to apply for grant moneys to cover pre-startup costs for a nonprofit entity dedicated to clean energy financing. This approach would create no demand on state general revenue. It mirrors practices in other states that have created "green banks," quasi-governmental nonprofit entities that leverage public funds to bridge funding gaps for clean energy.

If ODOE secures at least \$2 million in grant funds, the agency would use those funds to recruit and convene a founding board of experts to form the financing nonprofit. The generated funds could support projects in clean energy generation, transmission, production, or storage; energy conservation or efficiency; reducing greenhouse gas emissions; and improving resilience of infrastructure, natural and working lands, buildings, or communities. Lower income, tribal, rural, or underserved communities would receive funding priority. ODOE and the Oregon Business Development Department would support the nonprofit in exploring needed agreements and contractual relationships.

LWVOR urges your support for SB 1526. Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this bill.



Barbara Klein
Acting President, LWVOR



Claudia Keith
LWVOR Climate Emergency Coordinator