



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 3, 2026

To: [Rep. Ben Bowman](#), Chair, and Vice Chairs [Rep. Lucetta Elmer](#) and [Rep. Hai Pham](#)
Members of the [House Committee On Rules](#)

Re: [HB 4020](#) with [-1 Amendment](#) - **Adding Requirements to Permit Processing - Comments**

The League of Women Voters believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibilities, adequate financing, and coordination among the different agencies and levels of government. We believe that broad-based participation in agency rulemaking means that any adopted rules are likely to more accurately reflect legislative intent and provide the best possible outcomes.

As we review HB 4020 and the -1 amendment, we note that **it is missing a “Whereas” statement** recognizing the need for the legislature to fully fund staffing for these agencies to provide the high quality, efficient and timely processing of permits AND staffing to help applicants both properly fill out applications, understand their role in protecting public health and addressing any deficiencies in the application that would require denial.

Oregon's economy and public health are both necessary in seeing timely permitting—but processing within state laws and rules. The League has worked with most of the state agencies listed on improving their permit processing, including updating agency rules and advocating for additional staffing as needed.

The use of Key Performance Measures (KPMs) to help legislators address permit processing is laudable—and the League often provides comments in budget hearings linking the funding/staffing needed with the KPMs agencies' reporting. It will be helpful for legislators to learn more about the challenges of addressing complicated applications—being sure to fairly and efficiently process while assisting the permittees in filling out/correcting their applications.

The League looks forward to additional conversation on this bill with amendments and **hopes to see an additional amendment to address our concerns.**

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Barbara Klein
Acting President LWVOR

Peggy Lynch
Natural Resources Coordinator

Cc: [Kaitlin Lovell](#), Director, Dept. of State Lands
[Leah Feldon](#), Director, Dept. of Environmental Quality
[Lisa Sumption](#), Acting Director, Dept. of Transportation
[Janine Benner](#), Director of the Oregon Dept. of Energy
[Ruarri Day-Stirrat](#), State Geologist and Director of the Dept. of Geology and Mineral Industries