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March 31, 2009

Vol 19, Issue 11



## Legislative Report



League of Women  
Voters of Oregon

### Nuts and Bolts of Cap and Trade



The centerpiece of the governor's climate change agenda is its most controversial element - a **statewide carbon cap and trade system** based on a regional model crafted by the Western Climate Initiative (WCI) (a coalition of seven states and four Canadian provinces). The United States emits 13.1 trillion pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> a year, 22% of the total annual global emissions - about 43,000 pounds per American. Oregonians are looking at ways to reduce this footprint. The governor's proposal establishes a West Coast carbon market similar to those already in place on the East Coast and in Europe. [Learn more](#) about cap and trade.

*Deanie Anderson, Global Climate Change Portfolio Member*

### 5-Minute Activist: Cap and Trade



The [Healthy Climate Partnership](#), of which the League partners, wants the public to [contact legislators](#) on a bill to adopt a cap-and-trade system. [SB 80](#) would create a gradually declining cap on Oregon's carbon emissions. Amendments are being written and hearings are being scheduled for early April. The fate of this bill needs to be decided by the will of the people of Oregon and not by powerful outside interests. To empower yourself with knowledge on this issue read the above article, "Nuts and Bolts of Cap and Trade," including the link that answers many frequently asked questions. Also, information and a link on a presentation entitled "Why Repower Oregon?" can be found in this *Legislative Report's* "Calendar of Events."

### In This Issue

Nuts and Bolts of  
Cap and Trade

5-Minute  
Activist: Cap and  
Trade

The League  
Testifies for Clean  
Water and Clean  
Air

5-Minute Activist:  
Bottle Bill

Budgets: Land Use  
Planning

Budgets: Parks

March Madness:  
Tossing the  
Initiative Reform  
Balls

Big Look Still  
Looking

Where, oh where is  
SB 30?

League Takes  
Position on Election  
Methods

Speaking the  
Language of the  
Legislature

Calendar of Events



## The League Testifies for Clean Water and Clean Air



The League is testifying on water legislation ranging from requiring drug manufacturers to take back unused drugs to arsenic testing of home wells to groundwater gallon amounts. Other bills being tracked involve protecting groundwater from contaminants, as well as methods of disposal that build on the success of E-cycle. On the clean air

front, the League has been testifying on the issue of field burning.

Read [League testimonies and what these bills mean](#) in a report from the Action Team's Natural Resources Coordinator, Peggy Lynch.

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## 5-Minute Activist: Bottle bill



Help make the new bottle bill into law.

Support [HB 2184](#) as it goes to a full House vote this week. This bill adds refunds to single-serving sports drinks, teas and juices. The deposit will stay at 5 cents if a return rate goal of 80% is met. Grocers will be required to accept at least 24 containers even if there is a redemption center nearby. History has shown that container refunds not only increase

recycling, but also decrease litter.

Please take action by April 3! [Contact your representative.](#)

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## Budgets: Land Use Planning



Because our statewide land use planning system is so important to the League, we [testified in support of SB 5531](#), the [Department of Land Conservation and Development's](#) budget. We asked that [Measure 49](#) implementation be fully funded

in order to keep trust with the voters and that monies for local planning be continued so that, when the economy turns around, our local communities will be ready with up-to-date plans ready to face the future.

*Peggy Lynch, Natural Resources Coordinator*

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## Budgets: Parks

We weighed in on the [Oregon Parks and Recreation Budget \(HB 5033\)](#). We want to be sure that Measure 66 funds continue to be spent on the backlog and on-going maintenance of our parks as well as continued purchase of parks land for future generations. Again, the Governor's office has asked that the Main Street program be moved to Parks. We believe this is an economic development program and objected



## Quick Links

[LWVOR Action Team](#)  
[LWV of Oregon](#)  
[Join the League](#)  
[LWV of the United States](#)

[Oregon State Legislature](#)  
[Contact List of State Senators](#)  
[Contact List of State Representatives](#)  
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to this use of Measure 66 dollars. Read League testimonies on HB 5033 given [March 19](#) and [March 26](#).

*Peggy Lynch, Natural Resources Coordinator*

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### March Madness: Tossing Initiative Reform Balls

HB 2854  
HJR 17  
HB 2895  
HB 2820  
HB 2005



The House Rules Committee is indulging in its own "March Madness" with a rash of initiative reform bill hearings that started March 25 and will probably extend to April 1 (a fitting conclusion?) and beyond. The League is especially interested in several of these important measures and is presenting testimony on them. [Read more about the bills](#) and what the League has to say concerning these issues as they keep their eyes on the ball(s).

*Kappy Eaton, Governance Coordinator*

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### Big Look Still Looking

We continue to weigh in as we can on proposed amendments to HB 2229 ([League testimony of March 17](#)), better known as the **Big Look** bill. We have provided earlier testimony on the original bill. A work session was held on March 17, but a final work session is yet to be scheduled where the committee may amend the bill. Issues being considered include:



- **Amending Regional Problem Solving** to a two-step process where the problem is first defined and parties needed approved by LCDC and then a 3-year time limit to complete the process.
- **Asking the Oregon Law Commission to take on an audit** of land use statutes and rules to do a policy-neutral update
- **Creating a transfer of development rights/credits system** for Oregon
- **Finding a compromise system** to allow reclassification of some rural lands deemed to be "non-resource".

The League is generally in favor of all but the last point. Stay tuned!

*Peggy Lynch, Natural Resources Coordinator*

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### Where, oh where is SB 30?



The League testified in support of SB 30 on February 5 before the Senate Rules Committee, the first public hearing on this one-page bill to remove thousands of unnecessary people from the list of public officials who must file Economic Interest Statements (EIS). [Follow the SB trail](#) in a report by Kappy Eaton, Governance Coordinator.

*Kappy Eaton, Governance Coordinator*

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### League Takes Position on Election Methods

Upon completion of the [League's Election Methods Study](#), the LWVOR Board approved the [Election Methods Position Statement](#).

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## Speaking the Language of the Legislature



**Work Session:** A committee meeting held for the purpose of determining the contents of a measure to be reported to the desk. A work session is different from a public hearing: in a work session, no testimony is taken from the public, although the public may attend the hearing.

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### Mark the Date

**April 8 (Wednesday)** [Health Action Day](#), Oregonians for Health Security, 9:00 am at the Capitol

**April 16 (Thursday)** [Why Repower Oregon](#), Oregon League of Conservation Voters, 6:00 p.m.

#### *Legislature Action Dates*

**April 17 (Friday)** Deadline to schedule work sessions in chamber of origin\*

**April 28 (Tuesday)** Deadline for consideration of changes in chamber of origin\*

**May 20 (Wednesday)** Deadline to schedule work sessions in second chamber\*

**May 28 (Thursday)** Committees close\*

\*Except Joint Ways and Means, Senate Finance and Revenue, House Revenue, Senate and House Rules Committees

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