



*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 1, 2025

To: Reps. [Helm](#) and [Owens](#), Co-Chairs of the [House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water](#) and Members of the Committee

Re: [HB 2808](#) – Increases Certain Fees Related to Wells – Support

The League of Women Voters of Oregon provided [testimony](#) in 2021 as the legislature considered and passed [HB 2145](#) to modernize well regulations and address safety issues. The League has studied water issues since 1969 and base our testimony on “positions”: direction from our members after studying subjects, in this case, water. “*The League acknowledges that all water users must share in the cost of water management.*” Our on-going engagement with the agency and a wide variety of “stakeholders” provides us with a comprehensive understanding of the variety of challenges faced by our water agencies.

As we have participated with and listened to Oregon’s well drillers and others, we recognize that fee increases can be a burden. But it is critical that the well program be adequately funded. Oregonians need to be confident that wells are drilled safely so that the water accessed is safe to use and the well itself is safely constructed. That can only happen if the program is adequately funded. It is with this lens we **support HB 2808** and encourage the committee to recommend passage and send the bill to Ways and Means for final action by the end of session.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Bentson".

Lisa Bentson  
President LWVOR

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peggy Lynch".

Peggy Lynch  
Natural Resources Coordinator

Cc: [Ivan Gall](#), Director, Oregon Water Resources Dept.