



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.

September 8, 2023

To: **Co-Chairs Damien Hall and J.D. Tovey**
Members of the Housing Production Advisory Council

Re: **Council Recommendations - Public Involvement Exemptions - Comments and Concerns**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon has engaged in both housing and land use policies for many years. The League supports our statewide land use planning program with its 19 Goals. We have a strong position on Goal 1, public involvement, and Goal 2, which requires each local government in Oregon to have and follow a comprehensive land use plan and implementing regulations. Cities and counties must build their comprehensive plans on a factual base, and follow their plan when making decisions on appropriate zoning.

There are 241 cities in Oregon, each with a publicly adopted development code. Not all cities have Design Review Committees. By focusing on one city yet providing a recommendation related to all cities, this recommendation does a disservice to the other cities and their residents in Oregon who have engaged in creating and adopting these development codes. We note that this recommendation does NOT focus only on affordable housing development but ALL development.

We would support the creation of a **model code that cities can consider** to address the concerns raised by this recommendation. We note that another solution recommended is more **robust pre-application meetings—which the League supports. But residents are not invited to those meetings, leaving their voices out of the process.**

We hope you will consider these comments as you develop your final recommendation.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this proposal.

Becky Gladstone
LWVOR Co-President

Debbie Aiona
Housing Portfolio

Peggy Lynch
Natural Resources Coordinator

Nancy Donovan
Housing Portfolio

Cc: [Geoff Huntington](#), Governor's Senior Natural Resources Advisor
[Karin Power](#), Governor's Natural Resources and Climate Advisor
[Brenda Bateman](#), Dept. of Land Conservation and Development Director
[Andrea Bell](#), Oregon Housing and Community Services Director
[Alana Cox](#), Dept of Consumer and Business Services Building Codes Division Administrator