



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 2nd, 2023

To: Oregon Board of Agriculture
c/o Karla Valness, Senior Policy Advisor
Karla.VALNESS@oda.oregon.gov

Re: Board Invitation and 2023 League of Women Voters of Oregon Priorities

The League of Women Voters of Oregon appreciates the Board's invitation to share our priorities related to agriculture for the 2023 session. The League supports Oregon agriculture and continues to remind decision makers that it is the 2nd highest economic engine and the most stable industry in Oregon. Goal 3 of Oregon's land use planning program is critical to providing food not only for Oregonians but the world. Oregonians need more housing, but they also need food. We need adequate serviced lands for other industrial uses, but again remind decision makers that agricultural land IS industrial land and, once paved over, is gone. We work to balance all those needs within our land use planning program.

The League believes that agriculture should play an important role in addressing climate change; therefore, we support [SB 530](#), the **Natural Climate Solutions bill** which authorizes natural resource agencies to provide support to forest landowners, ranchers and farmers for voluntary techniques that not only increase carbon uptake and storage but provide secondary benefits of reduced water needs, increased output and overall improved quality and quantity of water. It is designed to help leverage federal funding and private investments in natural climate solutions on natural and working lands. Our volunteers have engaged in development of this bill and continue to refine it for passage. There are budget requests that accompany these policies which we will also support. We were pleased by the department's funding related to soil health and hope for continuation of that work.

As in previous presentations before this Board, we continue to support policies that assure "Abundant Clean Water for All". This last year we were a part of the [House Bill 5006 \(2021\)](#) Work Group and support the [report](#) filed with the legislature. Place-Based Planning is a good tool, but we urge you to read Section 1 of this report where we note the need for data and staffing for water agencies. We are hopeful that the myriad of federal funding opportunities can be accessed by Oregon for Oregonians.

The League participated in both the 2012 and 2017 [Integrated Water Resources Strategy \(IWRS\)](#) and want to acknowledge the recent Secretary of State's [advisory report](#) on Oregon's water needs. The 2021 and 2022 legislative sessions took great strides in addressing the funding issues, but we need to keep those gains and add on in 2023. To that end, LWVOR will continue to support funding for ALL of Oregon's water needs, including those of agriculture. We hope you will consider the multiple budget requests for various agencies as noted on pages 13-14 of the [2017-22 IWRS Progress Report](#).

The League is particularly interested in the agency's request budget packages under Natural Resources and Pesticides Policy. In 2021 the League published a study on [Pesticides and Other Biocides](#) and have now adopted new positions we will use to advocate on these important issues.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this information with you. We look forward to working with the Board and with others on these important policy and budget requests for 2023.



Rebecca Gladstone
President LWVOR



Claudia Keith
Climate Emergency Coordinator



Peggy Lynch
Natural Resources Coordinator

Cc: [LWVOR 2023 Legislative Priorities](#)