



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF OREGON**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a 97-year-old 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.

March 29, 2017

To: House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
Representative Brian Clem, Chair
Representatives Susan McLain and Sherrie Sprenger, Vice Chairs

Re: **HB 3245**, Removes Elected Body When Amending Comprehensive Plan Maps – **OPPOSE**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon first studied land use in 1959 and has been active since in supporting our statewide land use planning program with local implementation. We also have strong positions related to citizen involvement. The League especially encourages citizens to participate in foundational planning documents, such as Comprehensive Plans and their maps.

The League believes that Comprehensive Plans are Community documents, focused on meeting statewide Goals, while balancing the needs of a city for housing, jobs, parks and other important community land uses. Elected officials are chosen to consider a City-wide view of planning efforts. A hearings officer simply administers laws without considering that community-wide view. Planning Commissioners are valuable in providing a first cut/view of Comprehensive Plan map changes, but elected officials should have the final say on any changes to this important planning document. This bill places barriers to access these elected officials because many jurisdictions charge prohibitive appeals fees in order to reach the City Council. Such high fees reduce a citizen's right to redress the elected body.

We ask that you not send HB 3245 out of Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Handwritten signature of Norman Turrill in black ink.

Norman Turrill
LWVOR President

Handwritten signature of Peggy Lynch in black ink.

Peggy Lynch
LWVOR Natural Resources Coordinator