



**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.

February 2, 2018

To: Human Services and Housing Committee
Representative Alyssa Keny-Guyer, Chair

Re: HB 4006 – Addressing Rent Burdened Communities – **Support only with DLCD Funding**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon supports Oregon's land use planning program, including both Goal 1, Citizen Involvement, and Goal 10, Housing. HB 4006 attempts to address both of these important Goals. The requirement that local governments who are seen as severely rent-burdened hold a public meeting to discuss this important community issue is laudable, BUT the state must provide funding through the Dept. of Land Use and Conservation (DLCD) local government grants program in order to help, not only with the cost of any meeting, but, more importantly, to assist with the cost of updating Comprehensive Plans and/or Development Codes that might assist in addressing some of the causes of that rent burden.

The League has consistently supported an increase in DLCD's grant program so that local governments would have the financial assistance to update those planning documents, in part because those updates always include the citizen conversations around the need for any changes. Communities are provided with new population forecasts, with demographic changes, with current housing choices, transportation changes and cultural changes, among others. For communities still in need of that data, DLCD's local government grant monies are a source of funding to collect that data. We understand that the Speaker's office has provided the committee with both DLCD's downwardly spiraling grant funding history and data on severely rent-burdened cities and counties. We understand that the Speaker has asked that Ways and Means provide \$2.6 million to DLCD specifically to fund activities in these severely rent-burdened communities through their local government grant funding process. We fully support this request.

The League believes in complete communities, including providing housing for the breadth of community members. Providing a forum for a community discussion and then monies to implement provisions that will meet that goal is a benefit to all Oregon. We ask that you support HB 4006 **with the DLCD funding**.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.


Norman Turrill
LWVOR President


Peggy Lynch
LWVOR Natural Resources Coordinator

Cc: Speaker Tina Kotek
Ways and Means Co-Chairs Senator Peter Courtney and Representative Nancy Nathanson



DLCD Presentation; Slide #4