



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF OREGON

February 1, 2016

To: House Committee on Energy and Environment
Representative Jessica Vega Pederson, Chair
Representative Mark Johnson, Vice Chair
Representative Jeff Reardon, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee
Email: hee.exhibits@state.or.us

Re: HB 4125 Safe Well Water Bill - **SUPPORT**

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, grassroots political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. The League adopted a position on water quality in 1969, a position on Water Policy and Planning in 1977 and, after 3 years of study, adopted a combined Water Policy-Quality and Quantity position in 2011. Many League members—Oregonians across the state—get their drinking water from wells.

As we have seen success in buyer notification related to septic systems, this bill provides an opportunity for information regarding the safety of domestic wells. Having increased testing provides information not only to the buyer, but for a broader set of data to be collected around well water quality. Certainly the use of education to help domestic well owners manage the health of their drinking water is reasonable and encourages those owners to take responsibility for their well health.

We support providing a Safe Ground Water Fund for low income and rental property owners to have the ability to protect themselves by installing treatment systems with the sideboards listed in Section 3.

Using grant funds to help local governments and nonprofits assist in a ground water contaminant education program as listed in Section 4 stretches the ability of the Oregon Health Authority to do this work. Local efforts are often more receptive by citizens.

We know that there are serious health concerns around well water contamination. As we experience more droughts, ground water contamination is likely to become an even greater issue. We urge your **support for HB 4125**.

Sincerely,

Norman Turrill
President

Peggy Lynch
Natural Resources Coordinator