



The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a 99-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 4, 2019

To: House Committee on Human Services and Housing
Representative Alissa Keny-Guyer, Chair
Members of the Committee

Email: hhs.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

Re: **HB 2228 – Establishes Technical Assistance Program with Housing and Community Services – Proposed Amendments**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon is excited to see the linkages between our award-winning land use planning program and housing policies being considered this session. 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 believe that Goal 1 requires open access to the land use process and that all citizens have a stake in the development of their communities. And we support Goal 10, *“1. In addition to inventories of buildable lands, housing elements of a comprehensive plan should, at a minimum, include: (1) a comparison of the distribution of the existing population by income with the distribution of available housing units by cost; (2) a determination of vacancy rates, both overall and at varying rent ranges and cost levels; (3) a determination of expected housing demand at varying rent ranges and cost levels; (4) allowance for a variety of densities and types of residences in each community; and (5) an inventory of sound housing in urban areas including units capable of being rehabilitated.”* **As we plan our cities and counties, we are deciding where we will all live, work, shop, play and how we’ll get there.**

The League has provided testimony **in support of HB 2075** in the House Committee on Agriculture and Land Use in order to provide local governments with technical assistance with the land use program related to housing. Today we are asking that you consider amendments to this bill to complete the link by providing the Oregon Dept. of Housing and Community Services (OHCS) with complimentary technical assistance to help local governments with moving from the land use decisions to having on the ground projects to address our varied housing needs.

We believe it is in the best interest of Oregonians that this assistance program be created in OHCS and that the staffing and grants program be kept within OHCS rather than the Association of Oregon Counties or League of Oregon Cities. These two entities are fee-based and might not always represent all Oregon, whereas OHCS has that broader responsibility.

With that in mind, **we suggest amendments as attached** to reduce duplication and instead complete the ground work and investments the legislature and Governor have already made. These are being considered again this session and need to be successfully completed to address our varied housing needs. The League continues to be focused on the housing needs of those in the lowest income levels. Moving from the land to the actual housing requires a different set of skills from just land use. OHSC can provide that assistance, linking these state investments with our non-profit and government providers that will result in real housing.

The Regional Solutions program was established so that a team of agency staff could work together on local and regional projects. The agencies involved include Business Oregon, Dept. of Transportation,

Dept. of Environmental Quality, Dept. of Land Use and Conservation, and **Housing and Community Services**. However, OHCS staffing has been missing in most cases. Many of you have heard from Kim Travis, OHCS staffer. For the most part, she has been the statewide person serving all 11 Regional Solutions Teams. It's time that OHCS have the staffing and grant program to help local governments.

We ask that you amend HB 2228 as suggested in our attachment and “do pass” this bill to Ways and Means to provide the housing assistance component as a compliment to HB 2075, the land use component.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.



Norman Turrill
LWVOR President



Peggy Lynch
LWVOR Natural Resources Coordinator
Debbie Aiona
LWVOR Housing Portfolio

Attached: Proposed Amendments to HB 2228
LWVOR HB 2075 Testimony: <http://lwvor.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/HB-2075-DLCD-Funds-Support-LWVOR-1-29-2019.pdf> or <https://bit.ly/2TuwJhp>

Cc: Representative Brian Clem, House Committee on Agriculture and Land Use, Chair
Representative Dan Rayfield, Joint Ways and Means House Co-Chair
Margaret Salazar, Director, Dept. of Housing and Community Services
Greg Wolf, Association of Oregon Counties (gwolf@oregoncounties.org)
Erin Doyle, League of Oregon Cities (edoyle@orcities.org)