



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 11, 2019

To: Senate Committee on Environment & Natural Resources
Senator Michael Dembrow, Chair
Members of the Committee

Email: senr.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

Re: **SB 260**–Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Investment Program on Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia–**SUPPORT**

The year 2019 marks ninety-nine years of nonpartisan, grassroots political effort on the part of the League of Women Voters to encourage informed and active participation in governance and public policy formation. The League has spent many years studying coastal issues at the request of our members who wanted to know more about marine reserves and ocean energy. That study resulted in a broad understanding and appreciation of the riches and bio-diversity of life contained within Oregon’s 362-mile coastline of headlands, tide pools, rocky beaches, islands and reefs.

The League believes that our coastline is a dynamic and ever-changing biological system of highly inter-dependent pieces, highly susceptible to ocean acidification and hypoxia. The more scientific evidence we learn about this dynamic system and the impact of climate change on our coastal communities and fishing industries, the better our ability to mitigate impacts that have real financial and cultural consequences for our state. Public policy needs real, evidence-based research to guide the environmental and economic health of our coastal areas. We support the continued study of oceanographic and biological impacts arising from ocean acidification and hypoxia.

We urge your support of SB 260 with a “do pass” recommendation to Ways and Means. We leave it to the Ways and Means and Revenue Committees as to the amount to be assigned to this important work.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Norman Turrill".

Norman Turrill
LWVOR President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peggy Joyce".

Peggy Joyce
LWVOR Coastal Portfolio

Cc: Curt Melcher, Director, Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (curt.melcher@state.or.us)
Senator Kathleen Taylor and Representative Jeff Reardon, Co-Chairs of the Jt. Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources