April 16, 2019

To: Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction
   Senator Fred Girod and Representative Paul Holvey, Co-Chairs
   Members of the Committee

Email: jwmcc.exhibits@oregonlegislature

Re: HB 5005 – Bond Authorization Bill,
   DEQ Request for Environmental Data Management System Project – Support

The League of Women Voters has strong positions on both water quality and quantity, as well as air quality, solid waste and hazardous waste—perhaps every program that DEQ oversees. LWVUS was active in encouraging passage of the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts and continues to advocate to protect that foundational work. We also advocate for federal funding to implement that legislation, an issue of grave concern today. In Oregon, members have studied these issues, recognizing the value of having clean air, clean water and land for public health for today and generations to come.

We support multi-agency work to be efficient in accomplishing the missions of our natural resource agencies. The Environmental Data Management System Project is one of those efficiencies. We appreciate that the legislature’s Joint Committee on Information Management and Technology is actively following this project. We provided testimony in support at that March 19 meeting. We believe their review will result in a recommendation of support for this project. In the hearing on the DEQ budget, we provided the following:

Agency Management (POP 140): We are pleased that the agency has moved toward Stage Gate 3 and the software being considered is an off-the-shelf product already being used by 24 other states in order to update their electronic data management system. Data-driven policy decisions will provide the best outcomes and help focus limited state dollars on the programs that will help us meet the goal of abundant clean water and clean air for all in the future. We understand that this system will, in some way, connect with other agency data systems and/or provide data accessible to other agencies that may help with other agency permitting responsibilities. It is important that the information is accessible to all, including the general public.

We encourage your support for this important project. Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this funding request.

Norman Turrill
LWVOR President

Peggy Lynch
LWVOR Natural Resources Coordinator

Cc: Richard Whitman, Director, Dept. of Environmental Quality
Amanda Beitel, Legislative Fiscal Office Committee Coordinator