



*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.*

August 11, 2019

The Honorable Kate Brown, Governor  
Office of the Governor  
900 Court Street NE, Suite 254  
Salem, OR 97301-4047

The Honorable Ellen F. Rosenblum, Attorney General  
Oregon Department of Justice  
1162 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301-4096

Re: Allegations of law enforcement entities engaged in surveillance of citizens and groups opposing the Jordan Cove Energy Project

Dear Governor Brown and Attorney General Rosenblum:

Last year the League of Women Voters of Oregon (LWVOR) joined four local Leagues in areas that would be affected by the Jordan Cove Energy Project (JCEP) in opposing the project. They and we took that stance on the basis of numerous League positions, including this by the LWVUS: to “preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem, with maximum protection of public health and the environment.” Our opposition stands firm and we are committed to persisting, but **we write to you today to express our deep concerns about what appear to be actions by various entities, including some under your direction, that we believe exert a chilling effect on the First Amendment rights to “freedom with respect to religion, expression, peaceful assembly, or the right of citizens to petition the government.”** They may also violate ORS 181A.250.

State and federal laws require agencies to provide opportunities for comment on various project permit applications and our Leagues have used those opportunities with regard to the JCEP. Volunteer members of the four local Leagues—Coos and Klamath Counties and Umpqua and Rogue Valley—have poured countless hours of research into producing technical comments to the state Departments of Environmental Quality and State Lands, as well as to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and most recently to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. These comments highlight numerous negative project impacts and deficiencies in the respective application materials. The four Leagues have provided information on the project to community and local decisionmakers, and members maintain ongoing contact with other project opponents. The LWV is as committed to protecting the right to participation in public processes as we are to protecting the right to vote.

But this letter is not about touting or defending the LWV’s actions. It is about evidence that state law enforcement, along with local and federal law enforcement, is engaging in a formal project to surveil and possibly intimidate thousands of private citizens and scores of organizations as we exercise our right to participate. As far as has been revealed in media coverage of documents obtained, a task force interconnecting the Oregon State Police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Bureau of Land

Management, U.S. Forest Service, the Coos County Sheriff's Office and other municipal police departments, and a private contractor with a background and current activities focused on anti-terrorism has been operating for an unknown amount of time, collecting information in post-911 anti-terrorist fashion on individuals and groups **solely because we oppose the JCEP**. We expect that more will become known about these clandestine and unwarranted activities and with that, outrage over this inappropriate example of over-reach will grow. It is hard to imagine that there will not be a cost in terms of public trust.

This project has huge ramifications for our communities and our state—as our research has shown, primarily and on balance, negative. We ALL have a right, and arguably a responsibility, to try to stop its installation in our midst. Given our mission and history, the League feels a special charge to stand with youth as they fight for a livable future; the JCEP would directly thwart that goal.

We have made clear our profound respect and gratitude for the thorough and competent work your state agencies have done in considering the various critical permitting processes over which they preside. The recent combined public comment they produced for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) on the project is another example of the kind of response citizens should expect from their government.

To be clear, we support appropriate law enforcement activity to protect life and property and when public safety is at risk. In fact, we and other organizations have raised many serious public safety concerns related to the JCEP. We have noted in the state's comments on the DEIS, revelation that the latest owner, Pembina, actually scrapped a comprehensive safety plan developed in consultation with Oregon agencies prior to their acquisition of the project and replaced it with one that has been rejected by state and federal agencies. **But it is unacceptable for local, state, and federal law enforcement to surveil and intimidate private citizens—even organizations—as they exercise their peaceful right to express concerns about this huge project.**

**We ask that, as Oregon's elected leaders, you order an immediate stop to these surveillance activities and offer a public statement of apology to all those who might have been affected by this unconscionable action.**

Regards,



Rebecca Gladstone  
LWVOR President