



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.

December 18, 2019

To: Anna Braun, Chief of Staff to Senate President Peter Courtney
Anna.Braun@oregonlegislature.gov

Re: Senate LC 19 Work Draft 1.1, Oregon Greenhouse Gas Initiative - Concerns

The League of Women Voters recognizes that climate change is a serious threat facing our nation and planet. The League believes that an interrelated approach to combating climate change—including through energy conservation, air pollution controls, building resilience, and promotion of renewable resources—is necessary to protect public health and defend the overall integrity of the global ecosystem. The League supports climate goals and policies that are consistent with the best available climate science and that will ensure a stable climate system for future generations.

The League appreciates your commitment to ensuring Oregon passes meaningful climate legislation in 2020. We support policies that are based in UN-IPCC science, focused on staying below 1.5c global warming while ensuring a just transition for all Oregonians.

We wish to address four concerns related to the proposed LC 19 Draft - Oregon Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

- 1) **Delay and Narrowed Scope:** The slow roll-out of covered jurisdictions and broad allocation of free allowances to industries to emit greenhouse pollutants will impact the revenue that could be used to support transition to clean energy and to meet the goals stated in Section 14. We oppose this delay.
- 2) **Renewable Energy:** LC 19 should prioritize investment in energy generation from renewable resources, distributed energy resources, transmission and storage projects for renewable energy, demand response, community solar projects and other community-scale renewable energy projects. The greenhouse gas effects for “Natural” gas (methane) are 34 times worse than for CO₂. Until methane is free from its dismal record of atmospheric pollution during extraction, liquefaction and transport to customers, it cannot be considered a “bridge fuel”. We must work with all deliberate speed to replace “natural” gas with renewable energy.
- 3) **Protecting Impacted Communities in Oregon:** Climate Investments should prioritize: resilient natural and working lands, linking with Oregon’s tribes, wildfire mitigation, and maintaining and growing family-wage jobs. The League recommends including language to define other impacted communities within the state, based on their income levels, barriers to climate-policy making participation, and location – reflecting the varied effects of the changing climate. Benefits from the state program should preferentially focus on those communities which should be significantly represented on the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Board.
- 4) **New Policy Targets:** Aggressive targets must be adopted to reduce atmospheric CO₂ levels to below 350 ppm by 2100. The League supports the UN-IPCC 1.5C recommendation to reduce global net human-caused greenhouse gas emissions by 45% from 2010 levels by 2030, and to net-zero by 2050.

We have a moral responsibility to all current and future generations of Oregonians. Oregon has an opportunity; we must clearly state the urgency, an existential threat to humanity - and take clear implementable action to address the emergency.

Thank you for your commitment to addressing Oregon's climate challenge.



Rebecca Gladstone
LWVOR President



Julie Chapman
LWVOR Climate Change Portfolio

Cc: Kristen Sheeran, kristen.sheeran@oregon.gov
Senate President Peter Courtney, sen.PeterCourtney@oregonlegislature.gov
Senator Michael Dembrow, sen.MichaelDembrow@oregonlegislature.gov
Senator Fred Girod, sen.FredGirod@oregonlegislature.gov
Senator Kathleen Taylor, sen.KathleenTaylor@oregonlegislature.gov
Senator Lee Beyer, sen.LeeBeyer@oregonlegislature.gov
Senator Arnie Roblan, sen.ArnieRoblan@oregonlegislature.gov