



The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a 100-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, 2020

To: House Committee on Water
Representative Ken Helm, Chair
Members of the Committee
Email: hwtr.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

Re: [HB 4070](#) – Onsite Septic Loan Program – **Continued SUPPORT**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon continues to support this grant and loan program to provide low-interest loans for on-site septic repairs, replacements and upgrades. It is our understanding that, as a result of SB 1563 (2016) and SB 383 (2017) this program has done exactly what the legislature wanted—helped Oregonians address a serious public health issue while staying in their homes. Additionally, the state’s investment was increased by outside donations to the third-party administrator for the Department of Environmental Quality’s program, allowing the state’s investment to be stretched to serve even more Oregonians around the state.

We support this bill because the League has multiple positions related to water quantity and quality: *“The League opposes degradation of all of Oregon’s surface and ground water.” “The League supports policies and legislation that integrate water quality into resource management and include but are not limited to standards for:.....Placement and inspection of septic tanks and alternative individual treatment systems,.....Permitting and enforcement procedures with agency funding adequate to ensure timely compliance,....”*

We encourage your continued support for this important program to address this public health issue while assisting low income homeowners around the state. We have one word of caution: Should the legislature find funding of this program problematic due to lack of General Fund revenue, we ask that some funding continue rather than cutting off all funding. This program is too valuable to discontinue. Therefore, **although the bill requests \$2 million, the League would support \$1 million in funding.**

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Rebecca Gladstone
LWVOR President

Peggy Lynch
LWVOR Natural Resources Coordinator

Cc: Senator Betsy Johnson
Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward
Representative Dan Rayfield