



*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 7, 2020

To: Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
Senator Michael Dembrow, Chair  
Senator Alan Olsen, Vice-Chair  
Email: [senr.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:senr.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov)

Re: [SB 1554](#) - Funding for the Oregon Ocean Science Fund and Dept. of Fish and Wildlife - **SUPPORT**

Thirty years ago the League of Women Voters of Oregon did its first in-depth study of Oregon's coastline with a focus on offshore mining. In 2012 the League re-visited its initial coastal study to consider other issues impacting natural resources such as our marine reserves and a new interest in wave energy.

Most visitors to our state driving along Highway 101 would recognize the dramatic headlands, tide pools, rocky beaches, cliffs, and offshore rocks that identify our rich coastal habitat. But an even more significant resource is Oregon's nearshore waters that support sport and commercial fisheries, all of the State's mariculture operations and the critical nursery grounds for economically important species such as rockfish, oysters, salmon, pink shrimp, and Dungeness crab.

Recently, on January 22, 2020, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) released a study that shows for the first time the corrosive effect ocean waters are having on the shells of larval Dungeness crab and their sensory organs. While previous lab studies linked the harmful effects of ocean acidification on Dungeness crabs, this study marks the first to show the effects on larval crabs in their natural environment. This study is a wakeup call.

The Oregon commercial market from 2009 to 2018 in Dungeness crab take is listed at over \$468 million according to ODFW records. That is a sizable economic loss that would devastate coastal communities and economies. We cannot ignore solutions to this problem for lack of scientific research and testing.

The League strongly urges a yes vote on Senate Bill 1554.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca L. Gladstone".

Rebecca Gladstone  
LWVOR President

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

Peggy Joyce  
LWVOR Coastal Issues Portfolio