



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.

May 6, 2020

To: Racquel Rancier, Oregon Water Resources Department
725 Summer St. NE, Suite A,
Salem, OR 97301-1271

Email: racquel.r.rancier@oregon.gov

Re: Proposed Rules: Safety of Dams including Design, Construction, Maintenance, Corrective Action, Removal, and Emergencies – **Support**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon believes that all levels of government share the responsibility of coordinating, implementing and funding an effective program to mitigate Oregon's earthquake and tsunami hazards. Priority must be given to mitigation that protects human life and safeguards critical life support systems. This position was adopted in 1995 and we have consistently argued for both public education and government investments to address this critical public safety issue since that adoption.

In 2019, as in previous sessions, we engaged in the issue of dam safety (HB 2085), acknowledging the responsibility of government to evaluate dams "...that threaten population centers and taking remedial actions such as reinforcing dams, and developing maps and downstream notification procedures." In 2020 we supported SB 1537 which would have provided funding to aggressively address dam safety issues in Oregon.

We were privileged to participate in the advisory committee for these proposed rules. The membership of the committee was broad-based with expertise related to the various issues addressed in these proposed rules. It is time to update and expand the Water Resources Department's dam safety rules on behalf of Oregonians.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss these proposed rules. We ask that the Water Resources Commission **adopt** these important public safety rules.

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

Rebecca Gladstone
LWVOR President

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

Peggy Lynch
LWVOR Natural Resources Coordinator