



The League of Women Voters of Oregon, established in 1920, is a 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.

September 8, 2023

To: **Co-Chairs Damien Hall and J.D. Tovey**
Members of the Housing Production Advisory Council

Re: **Council Recommendations - Appeals - Comments and Concerns**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon has engaged in both housing and land use policies for many years. The League supports our statewide land use planning program with its 19 Goals.

The League supports both Goal 10, Housing, and Goal 1, Public Involvement. In an attempt to address one, we cannot gut the other. Although we have no objection to local jurisdictions hiring a hearings officer should they be able to afford the expense, we have concerns about funding the Councils of Governments for this purpose without a clear understanding of who pays and how that resource will be allocated to the Council's jurisdictions.

We do object to removal of an opportunity for a de novo hearing. We understand the concerns of applicants, but this is an opportunity for engagement by the public. **The findings requirement provides an opportunity for the jurisdiction and applicant to seriously consider the comments by the public and for the commenters to feel heard in the process. This brings transparency and trust to the process.** It is important for the public to be engaged and feel heard because they may well be asked to pay for infrastructure and other services (police and fire, for instance).

We hope you will consider these comments as you develop your final recommendation.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this proposal.

Becky Gladstone
LWVOR Co-President

Debbie Aiona
Housing Portfolio

Peggy Lynch
Natural Resources Coordinator

Nancy Donovan
Housing Portfolio

Cc: [Geoff Huntington](#), Governor's Senior Natural Resources Advisor
[Karin Power](#), Governor's Natural Resources and Climate Advisor
[Brenda Bateman](#), Dept. of Land Conservation and Development Director
[Andrea Bell](#), Oregon Housing and Community Services Director
[Alana Cox](#), Dept of Consumer and Business Services Building Codes Division Administrator