



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.

April 7, 2025

To: **Reps. [Helm](#) and [Owens](#)**, Co-Chairs of the **[House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water](#)** and Members of the Committee

Re: **[HB 3372](#) – Water Resources Dept. to Study Exempt Uses of Water – SUPPORT**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon supports HB 3372 and *recognizes that effective planning for water protection and use is most effective with a complete inventory of the water resource including all domestic wells and encourages moving toward this goal.*

In Deschutes County alone, there are an estimated 20-24,000 exempt wells, each of which is allowed to withdraw 15,000 gallons a day for three households. Without accurate measurement and reporting of exempt well use, estimating the number is unreliable, making land use and water planning and mitigation difficult.

The Water Resources Dept. expects approximately 3,000 new exempt wells a year, adding to the more than 250,000 currently statewide. Although the amount of water extracted is, on an individual basis, much less than other water users, there are areas of the state where exempt wells are going dry because of the limited water available. Adding data around current exempt uses would increase Oregon's ability to better manage a resource that is becoming scarcer each year.

We urge your **SUPPORT for HB 3372.**

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Bentson".

Lisa Bentson
President LWVOR

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Becky Powell".

Becky Powell
Water Portfolio

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peggy Lynch".

Peggy Lynch
Natural Resources Coordinator

Cc: [Ivan Gall](#), Director, Oregon Water Resources Dept.