



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 - Cottage Clusters - 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.

This recommendation includes two issues. The League has no position on the recommendation removing requiring separate utilities for each unit except that we have supported the opportunity for home ownership which might require splitting of utilities. One of many positive attributes of middle housing is the provision of possibly less expensive homes. The solution of creating a Homeowners Association would seem to increase the cost of rental or ownership so we caution recommending that solution. **We would not want this recommendation to reduce the opportunity for individual unit home ownership.**

As to the removal of the requirement of a courtyard, we do believe that a small greenspace is important. Greenspaces are valuable assets to absorb carbon (think diesel fumes in urban areas) and to help with our increasingly hot summers. They also provide an opportunity for a small play space and/or an opportunity to increase community connections among the cottage residents. **We do not support this recommendation.**

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