



The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a 101-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.

April 7, 2021

To: [House Energy and Environment](#)
Representative Pam Marsh, Chair

Re: [HB 2021-5](#) – Clean Energy – **Support**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon believes that climate change is a serious threat facing our nation and planet. The League believes that an interrelated approach to combating climate change—including through energy conservation, air pollution controls, building resilience, and promotion of renewable resources—is necessary to protect public health and defend the overall integrity of the global ecosystem. The League of Women Voters of Oregon supports efforts to secure equal opportunity for all and to promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of all of our residents.

We recognize that transportation produces significant greenhouse gas emissions and its pollutants differentially harm environmental justice communities. To address these harms, we must rapidly transition to zero emission vehicles and develop the nonemitting electricity to power them.

We had some concerns with HB 2021-1 and are pleased that **we are now able to enthusiastically support HB 2021-5 with its requirement for nonemitting electricity generation by 2040.**

We were impressed by the amount of negotiation that has gone on among a range of stakeholders. The fact that Environmental Justice organizations were involved in leadership positions from the start was especially important. At the public hearing on April 5, we appreciated learning that representatives from PacificCorp, PGE, AFL-CIO, NIPPC, and Coalition of Color all strongly support HB 2021-5.

Due to the late availability of Amendment-5, we were unable to make a detailed evaluation. However, we confirmed that some specific concerns we had with HB 2021-1 have been resolved. The major one was making the 2040 target mandatory. It is now clear from the Policy statement at the beginning of Section 2 that the 2040 target is not only treated the same as the 2030 and 2035 targets but “that retail electricity providers **rely on nonemitting electricity** to meet the clean energy targets set forth in section 3 of this 2021 Act **and eliminate greenhouse gas emissions associated with serving Oregon retail electricity consumers by 2040.**”

We appreciate that the interests of those other than the electricity providers are integrated throughout the bill. Examples include the Community Benefits and Impacts Advisory Groups and the addition of representatives of environmental justice communities and the renewable energy workforce to the work group on small scale and community-based renewable energy projects. We appreciate the responsible contractor labor standards for large-scale projects, especially with respect to apprenticeship training programs. An aspirational target for at least 15 percent of total work hours is required to be met through outreach, recruitment, and retention of women, minority individuals, veterans and people with disabilities.

We also recognize the incorporation of concerns about resource adequacy, resilience, and costs to customers. The fact that Oregon does not have an isolated grid is taken into account.

We believe this legislation will give the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Public Utility Commission (PUC) the authority they need to fully carry out and even exceed the specifications in

Executive Order 20-04. We found the HB 2021-1 version somewhat ambiguous with respect to the roles of the DEQ and PUC and see that at least in Section 15 this was clarified.

At a previous public hearing, the mayors of several cities were supportive of the ability to have city-wide rate schedules for renewable or nonemitting resources, especially because of the opt-out option. HB 2021-5 took this into account by eliminating the opt-in option.

We approve of the changes made to the section on natural gas power plants. HB 2021-1 allowed renewable natural gas and did not cover expansion of existing plants. HB 2021-5 limits new and expanded plants to “generate only nonemitting electricity.” We recognize that the way “nonemitting electricity” is defined may allow for carbon capture and storage.

Taking into account all of the stakeholder support for the bill and the changes we have identified, we are glad to be able to give our full support to HB 2021-5.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.



Rebecca Gladstone
LWVOR President

Claudia Keith
LWVOR Climate Emergency
Coordinator

Kathy Moyd, Julie Chapman
LWVOR Climate Emergency
Portfolio