



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.

March 27, 2023

To: Chair Golden, Vice Chair Girod and Members of the Committee
[Senate Committee on Natural Resources](#)

Re: [SB 80 With Amendments – Wildfire Policy Updates – SUPPORT](#)

The League of Women Voters of Oregon has extensive positions around land use and forestry policies, natural resource protections and the responsibilities of state government for Oregonians' personal health and safety.

We supported [SB 762](#) (2021) with its myriad of agencies' responsibilities and followed the intense rulemaking on the Wildfire Risk Map that was required under that bill. Due to the importance of thoughtful deliberations during the rulemaking and the bill's short required deadline for adopting the map, the public involvement process was truncated and did not provide for adequate opportunities to engage with a broad enough cross-section of communities around Oregon before the final adoption deadline. [SB 80](#), with proposed amendments, provides for that longer, thoughtful timeline with needed enhanced opportunities for engagement—for listening, feedback and response to public comments.

The League does believe that, like the tsunami inundation line mapping, which provides science-based information on risks and responsibilities, a **Wildfire Hazard Map** will yield similar information and more clarity around needed actions, including evacuation planning. This information, coupled with the improved public participation, will help increase the level of “buy-in” of Oregonians when it comes to the risks they face, and how to help mitigate them. **It is critical that a broad, inclusive and diverse rules advisory committee be selected, representative of the many public interests revealed by the first map introduction and that robust public involvement be funded and be a part of this exercise.** We encourage the Dept. of Forestry to use multiple methods of outreach and to respond to information provided by the public. Legislative investments and programs created from the 2021 and 2022 legislative sessions should be shared during these meetings, along with any new investments and programs provided during 2023.

We especially support the creation of a Landscape Resiliency Fund, with some state funds to ensure the ability to accept federal funds and funds from other sources in order that Oregonians can continue and expand the work started under SB 762 to proactively participate in protecting their properties—as well as their own lives and those of our firefighters.

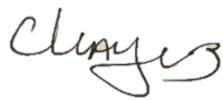
As with the landscape fund, **we support the Wildfire Home Preparedness grant program** to facilitate retrofitting of existing and new dwellings following a wildfire event. Separately, **we support an updated building code with funding for low-income Oregonians to assure new homes in the Wildland Urban Interface are resistant and resilient to wildland fire.**

We urge your support for amendments to SB 80 that include the policies above to continue to help Oregonians protect themselves against the dangers of wildland fire.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.



Rebecca Gladstone
President LWVOR



Carolyn Mayers
Wildfire Portfolio



Peggy Lynch
Natural Resources Coordinator

Cc: [Cal Mukumoto](#), Oregon State Forester