



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 16, 2023

To: Chair Janeen Sollman

Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

Re: **SB 868-1** — Healthy Heating and Cooling for All — **Support**

The League of Women Voters believes that climate change is a very real threat facing our nation and planet. LWV Oregon supports climate related policies which are consistent with the best available science and that will ensure a stable eco-system for future generations.

Climate change is causing more extreme climate events like the “heat dome” in Oregon, which caused many deaths. Statistics from the US Energy Information Administration show that one quarter of the population of Oregon does not have air conditioning. This leaves too many Oregonians in danger of life-threatening medical consequences in the event of another heat dome. SB 868-1 serves not only to decrease greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions but protects our most vulnerable citizens from climate extremes by incentivizing the purchase of heat pumps and other energy efficiency actions.

SB 868-1 sets a target for Oregon residents to install 500,000 heat pumps by 2030. The Resilient Buildings bill package (SB 868-1, 869-1, 870-1 & 871-1) represents ambitious objectives for addressing climate change in the residential and commercial buildings sector, a sector which contributes a large share (at least 30%) of total GHG emissions in Oregon.

The League strongly supports SB 868-1 because:

- It promotes coordination among government agencies by aligning new and existing programs related to resilience, energy efficiency and GHG reductions.
- It provides for a much needed One-Stop information center, which will eliminate barriers our citizens face in getting usable, understandable information on State, Federal and utility programs available for energy efficiency.
- It prioritizes actions that help Environmental Justice communities adapt to the impacts of climate change and overcome cost burdens and other barriers to enjoying the benefits of energy efficiency in their homes.

We urge your support for SB 868-1 and thank you for the opportunity to discuss this important legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Becky Gladstone".

Rebecca Gladstone
President LWVOR

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Claudia Keith".

Claudia Keith
Climate Emergency Coordinator

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Arlene Sherrett".

Arlene Sherrett
Climate Emergency Portfolio