



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 Dexter, Vice Chairs Gamba and Helfrich and Members of the Committee**

House Committee on Housing and Homelessness

Re: **HB 3442 – Allows Development in Floodplain or other Natural Hazards Lands –**

OPPOSE

The League of Women Voters of Oregon supports our statewide land use planning program with its 19 Goals. We also have strong positions around water quality and quantity, coastal management, hazards and seismic risks.

The League is proud to have advocated for a number of years on the need for affordable housing. We have participated in rulemaking and supported legislation to help Oregonians have a safe home. We support a local government's adoption of a Comprehensive Plan and Development Code to designate developable lands within their jurisdiction so long as they meet statewide Goals and rules around Hazard areas and Federal Emergency Management Act (FEMA) regulations around floodplains.

All people who live in structures in these jurisdictions deserve those structures to be located in a safe environment. They should be able to access flood, earthquake, and other insurance to protect the value of their homes and/or belongings from natural disasters. Allowing building of any housing, including affordable housing, in a floodplain or other natural hazards lands should not be permitted OR should only be allowed under strict guidelines that meet public health and safety concerns.

We urge your Opposition of HB 3442 and instead support the location of affordable—indeed all—housing in safe places.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

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

Rebecca Gladstone
President LWVOR

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peggy Lynch".

Peggy Lynch
Natural Resources Coordinator