



The League of Women Voters of Portland

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DATE: November 12, 2015

TO: Mayor Hales, Commissioners Fish, Fritz, Novick, and Saltzman

FROM: Margaret Noel, President
Julie Chapman, Action Committee member

RE: **Resolution No. 1179:** "Oppose expansion of infrastructure whose primary purpose is transporting or storing fossil fuels in or through Portland or adjacent waterways," and proposed amendments

The League of Women Voters of Portland urges your support of Resolution 1157, now reconsidered as Resolution 1179.

Since the 1950s, the League has worked at the federal and state levels to protect air, land and water resources. More recently, the League has lobbied vigorously for comprehensive legislation to control global climate change by setting a cap on greenhouse gas pollution and by encouraging conservation and renewable energy. Any major increase in fossil fuel industry infrastructure is not consistent with the current League of Women Voters natural resources and climate change positions, nor with Portland's 2015 Climate Action Plan.

The resolution as originally written was a clear statement of the Council's intention to honor our 2015 Climate Action Plan and its recommendation to establish a "fossil fuel export policy that considers lifecycle emissions, safety, economics, neighborhood livability and environmental impacts."

The original Resolution 1157 was both aspirational and a clear mandate to work toward better energy solutions through alternatives to burning fossil fuels. It is a statement of intention and a model for other local and state mandates to reduce reliance on the coal and oil industries.

The League of Women Voters of Portland continues to support the original Resolution 1157; we have reservations about any amendments that require further study and could delay implementation of the Resolution. In particular, we have concerns about the necessity, intent and implications of Amendments 5, 6 and 8. We ask that you reject these amendments if their approval would weaken the resolution and postpone the work of developing proposed code changes to protect public health, safety and our environment.

"To promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government."