



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS

**TESTIMONY
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS
STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Wednesday, March 22, 2017**

I am Laura Blackburn testifying as a member and on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Texas in support of HB 773. We appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today. Thank you for allowing us to share the League of Women Voters of Texas (LWV-TX) position on this bill as well as the position of the League of Women Voters of the United States.

I have been involved with Climate Change for the League of Women Voters for the past 20+ years and have read many bills relating thereto. But none of them rise to the importance of HB 773. Representative Eric Johnson has done a masterful job of covering the major impacts of a warming planet and how our state agencies can address those impacts. We applaud him for that and hope that this committee will see the bill as an advance in changes in weather, water availability and climate variability. We continually see these ongoing changes in Texas.

The position of the League of Women Voters of Texas is:

The League of Women Voters of Texas supports a comprehensive state land use policy to provide for the orderly development of the state, including:

- land being used according to its carrying capacity based on a thorough inventory of our land and natural resources
- growth and development of an area being compatible with the degree of availability of essential natural resources in that area
- preferential tax treatment for maintenance of the desirable existing buildings and infrastructure
- identification and protection of areas of particular significance (historical, archaeological, aesthetic, recreational) and rare or fragile ecosystems).

We also act under the positions of LWVUS, one of which states:

Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest.

League members became concerned about depletion and conservation of natural resources as far back as the 1920s and 1930s when the League undertook a study of flood control, erosion and the creation of the Tennessee Valley Authority.



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We have seen advances in responding to these changes over the years and we have seen retreats in trying to understand the changes. Requiring agencies to use the information from the State Climatologist will only help them in the analysis of projected adverse impacts in services provided by the agency and development of strategies to address those changes in weather, water availability, and climate variability.

HB 773 is an advance, and we strongly urge you to vote “YES ” on this bill.

For additional information, please contact: Laura Blackburn], Climate Change Issue Chair, laura2blackburn@gmail.com 281-923-5326

The League of Women Voters of Texas (LWV-TX) is a nonpartisan citizens’ organization that has fought since 1919 to improve our government and engage all citizens in the decisions that impact their lives. It represents more than 5000 members and supporters throughout Texas.

The League of Women Voters never supports or opposes candidates for office or political parties. The member-driven organization of women and men encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and seeks to influence public policy through education and advocacy of positions based on extensive issue study and consensus.