



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF NEBRASKA

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March 8, 2016

Nebraska Legislature, Executive Board

Testimony re: Support for LR 455 Create a Committee to plan for Climate Change

Senator Krist and Committee members,

The League of Women Voters supports measures which preserve the integrity of ecosystems with maximum protection of public health and the environment. The University of Nebraska-Lincoln report on “Understanding and Assessing Climate Change Implications for Nebraska” provides an outline of some of the impacts we may expect for our State. We have already seen an overall warming in Nebraska of about 1.5 degrees since 1895, and the drought of 2012 brought a wakeup call to many. December 2015, January and February 2016 have been the warmest on record. There is consensus among climate scientists that human activities have influenced this warming trend. Just as Nebraska has a plan for other types of disasters that span many sectors, climate-related response requires a broad scope of representation from the several Legislative committees designated in this resolution.

The UN-L report states that “Action now is preferable and more cost effective than reaction later”. A special committee meets the need to plan for consequences that will result from continued warming. Our agricultural sector, health systems, natural resources and overall economic well-being are all at risk if there is no Nebraska plan in place to adapt to the effects of heat and drought caused by carbon emissions. We must plan for the challenges and opportunities associated with these changes before they occur.

LR 455 provides the Legislature with the means to develop a proactive and coordinated approach to mitigating the effects of climate change for the citizens of Nebraska. The League of Women Voters of Nebraska supports this resolution and asks that you vote yes for our future.

Janece Mollhoff, Natural Resources Director

League of Women Voters of Nebraska