



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF NEBRASKA

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Chairperson Watermeier and Members of the Executive Board,

I am testifying today on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Nebraska.

As determined by the LR 455 special committee, there is “universal support for the need for an evidence-based, data-driven state climate action plan”. This was also evidenced in this committee’s hearing for LB646, where 24 representatives testified in favor, with no opponents. The organizations that testified including the Nature Conservancy, Nebraska Sierra Club, Bold Alliance, Nebraska Wildlife Federation, Nebraska Interfaith Power and Light, League of Women Voters, CCL and Nebraska Farmers Union, represent thousands of Nebraskans from all walks of life and all across the state. Further, we are behind all other States in addressing this issue. A report released in January 2017 by the U.S. Energy Industry Administration stated that “The state with both the greatest percentage and absolute increase [in emissions] was Nebraska, at 25% (10 million metric tons)”.

LR 46 introduced by Senator Larson is a positive step to curbing emissions, but appears to take a tactical approach with limited scope for a major problem that requires strategic, comprehensive planning. With all due respect to our Senators, while some of you have excellent credentials, the seven Senators who would sit on the “Special Committee” formed by this bill do not have the time nor the scientific background and range of expertise in the related areas of human and animal health impacts, energy technology, forest management, agricultural and food production and water conservation that is required to develop such a plan. As LB 646 outlines, "The state must invest in research and data gathering, planning, education, and coordination of efforts related to mitigation of and adaptation to the impacts of ...climate change". This task is most effectively assigned to our world-class Universities and research facilities, along with stakeholder groups such as Public Power Districts, Agricultural Industry, Business and Technology leaders, Public Health Agencies and Resource Managers.

Additionally, the reference to potential for funding from the Environmental Trust is a concern. The Trust already has a system for grants for emission reduction, and any changes to that process would best be debated by the full Senate, and not by a Special Committee. The current process is not broken, and indeed, my home town of Ashland recently installed electric vehicle charging stations near our Community Resource Center using some of those funds.

Your constituents, the citizens of Nebraska, expect you to do what is right for our future. You have this opportunity to act by combining LR46 with the more robust provisions of LB 646 to develop a comprehensive state climate action plan that addresses not only Energy, but also Transportation, Industry and Agricultural sources of carbon emissions that contribute to climate change and threaten the health and well-being of Nebraskans.

Janece Mollhoff
Natural Resources Director

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President