

Weekly Legislative Update: **Climate Crisis and Energy**

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Bills Needing Action this Week

*Remember, only authorized members can speak for the League; the Issue Chairs will do that, so **please leave the "Organization" box blank.** A more powerful influence is many voices speaking for themselves rather than many voices speaking for the League.*

HB 1012 Creating an Extreme Weather Response Grant Program. The legislature recognizes the increasing risks and threats to socially vulnerable people (including pets) from extreme weather events such as heat, cold, smoke, and flooding. This bill will provide funding for communities with a demonstrated lack of resources, to meet the costs of responding to community needs during such periods. This is for cities, counties, towns, and tribes that have emergency management organizations.

 **Sign in PRO on HB 1012 [here](#) before 12:30 PM on January 30.**

HB 2129/SB 6039 Geothermal energy resources requires a geological survey to facilitate identifying geologic features of both sources of **geothermal energy** and potential hazards such as inducing seismicity (earthquakes). Geothermal heat can drive clean base-load electricity generation with energy extracted from high-temperature rock and water sourced thousands of feet below the surface. Washington state already leases state-owned land for geothermal energy, and this bill will require an update to the lease rates for development of geothermal resources. Depending on appropriations available, grants may be offered to private entities to share direct costs of exploration activities in high potential areas. **HB 2129** is scheduled for a hearing in the House Committee on Environment & Energy on Monday, January 29.

 **Sign in PRO on HB 2129 [here](#) before 12:30 PM on Monday, January 29.**

In Other Advocacy

Last Thursday, we testified for **HJM 4003 Requesting that the United States join in developing a Fossil Fuel Nonproliferation Treaty**. A summary of our remarks follow.

The 2200 members of the League in Washington State have an intense interest in minimizing the progress of climate change and in doing our part. The League of Women Voters studies the issues carefully and defines our positions by member consensus. The

League was founded over 100 years ago to ensure voters are knowledgeable on policy issues.

Through that study, the League believes that an international approach to combating climate change ... is necessary to protect public health and defend the overall integrity of the global ecosystem—and governments must continue to address this issue, while considering the ramifications of their decisions, at all levels — local, state, regional, national, and global.¹

WA is working hard to do its part—as we can, and as we should, and as should all states. The Federal Government should use its significant influence and leadership to coordinate action across regions and nations so all our efforts will be as consistent and effective as they can be.

The League of Women Voters of WA is on record as supporting and advocating for the relevant and related legislation listed in this Memorial. As this committee did with those bills, please schedule a vote and pass this memorial. Thank you for arranging for WA citizens and organizations to participate in our democracy.

¹Approved by the LWVUS Board at the January 2019 meeting; excerpts from full text.

Additionally:

The League believes that climate change is a serious threat facing our nation and planet. The League believes that an international approach to combating climate change — including through energy conservation, air pollution controls, building resilience, and promotion of renewable resources — is necessary to protect public health and defend the overall integrity of the global ecosystem. [Impact on Issues](#), LWVUS.

How You Can Be Involved

- If you are interested in a particular bill, use the links above to go to the webpage for that bill. These pages include staff summaries and reports including those who testified PRO versus CON on the bill. There is also information about how to access videos of hearings that have been held.
- If you do nothing else, please scan the [LWVWA Legislative Action Newsletter](#) each week (it's distributed each Sunday during the legislative session) and respond to the Action Alerts .
- If you have more time and are interested in a particular topic, we always appreciate and can use your assessments of bills, law implementation, and future concerns. For climate and energy topics send assessments of a few paragraphs to a few pages and include the

sources of the facts you rely on. Send them to **Martin Gibbins**, Climate Crisis and Energy Issue Chair.

- The LWVUS Climate Interest Group also maintains information on addressing climate change for state and local Leagues. Contact **Martin Gibbins** to discuss opportunities.