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February 15, 2023

Senator Bruce Bostelman, Chair, and Members of the Natural Resources Committee
State Capitol, Lincoln, NE

RE: LB120 (Bostelman) Eliminate obsolete provisions relating to a Nebraska Power Review Board study

OPPOSE – *Please include this written testimony from the League of Women Voters of Nebraska as part of the public hearing record for LB120.*

Dear Senator Bostelman and Members of the Natural Resources Committee:

The statement of intent for LB120 is that it is a placeholder bill. The bill suggests that it may address changing provisions of the Nebraska Power Review Board study of state, regional and national electric transmission infrastructure; repealing sections 70-1029, 70-1030, 70-1031 and 70-1033; and revising section 70-1032. It does not address what actions may be taken.

Nebraskans want more information. Consider your constituents. As senators you represent all Nebraskans in your districts, and they expect to be able to offer input on bills. Attending public hearings requires travel and effort for advocates.

Provisions being considered for potential repeal were authorized through a 2014 Power Review Board study to identify opportunities for electric transmission improvements. Voters do not understand the implications of the statutes included. They most likely have not read the statutes. Repealing one of the statutes would affect utility participation in the regional transmission organization, the Southwest Power Pool. Another statute concerns restricting Nebraska's renewable energy market.

This "so called" hearing on LB120 is simply an effort to subvert the participation of the public in the future of public power in Nebraska.

The League of Women Voters' position on energy includes a predominant reliance on renewable resources with "action by the appropriate levels of government to encourage the use of renewable resources and energy conservation through funding for research and development, financial incentives, rate-setting policies and mandatory standards." Nationally, the League supports incentives to accelerate pollution control.

The LWWNE's program position on energy supports energy conservation as a part of any national or state energy policy. Public understanding and cooperation are essential to the success of any program of energy conservation. Citizens should be involved in the difficult choices that must be made.

Sincerely,
Megan Lyons and Janelle Stevenson
Natural Resources Co-Directors, LWWNE
MaryLee Moulton, President, LWWNE