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February 9, 2023

Senator Tom Brewer, Chair, and
Members of the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee
State Capitol, Lincoln, NE

RE: LB513 (Brewer) Change proof of publication requirements for legal notices and requirements for published notice and virtual conferencing under the Open Meetings Act

SUPPORT - *Please include this written testimony from the League of Women Voters of Nebraska as part of the public hearing record for LB513.*

Dear Senator Brewer and Members of the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee:

The League of Women Voters of the Nebraska believes that democratic government depends upon informed and active participation at all levels. The League further believes that governmental bodies must protect the citizen's right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings and making public records accessible.

LB513 is a clean-up bill pertaining to the virtual conferencing requirements of meetings, which were revised during the pandemic (under LB83, 2021), and adding the use of the statewide website (under LB840, 2022) as a vehicle to announce meetings as well as in newspapers.

LB513 is in keeping with the League's general policy objectives to make sure open meetings and open records laws are protected or expanded and to support legislation that creates increased transparency and public input. Please vote LB513 out of committee to General File for debate.

Sincerely,

Walta Sue Dodd, Voter Services Co-Director, LWWNE
MaryLee Moulton, President, LWWNE