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February 24, 2022

Senator Dan Hughes, Chair
and Members of the Executive Board

RE: LR159 (Blood) – Request the Executive Board to appoint an AltEn LLC, Ethanol Plant Special Investigative and Oversight Committee

SUPPORT

Dear Senator Hughes and Members of the Executive Board:

Throughout the United States, the League of Women Voters consistently supports legislation to preserve our nation's natural resources and protect public health. This testimony is to address the ongoing environmental disaster caused by AltEn Ethanol in Mead, NE. We are greatly concerned for our fellow Nebraskans and the surrounding ecosystems that have been poisoned. The League of Women Voters of Nebraska asks you to act with a sense of urgency and prioritize creating a special committee, protecting the victims, initiating safe clean-up solutions, conducting long-term research, and establishing safeguards to never allow this to happen again.

The LWVNE supports LR159 to "Request the Executive Board to appoint an AltEn LLC, Ethanol Plant Special Investigative and Oversight Committee" to study and investigate the timelines, records, rules, products, drinking water and costs associated. AltEn is a statewide problem that requires a whole-state investigation to be sure our environmental laws are strong enough to stop entities like AltEn.

The LWVNE also asks the Nebraska Attorney General to move forward with the AltEn lawsuit, filed March 1, 2021. And we request that the Nebraska Department of Energy and Environment schedule a public hearing to receive public comment on the AltEn Facility Response Group Remedial Action Plan filed with the agency on November 1, 2021.

Quality of the land, air and water have all been compromised. Our neighbors deserve human dignity and healthy lives. Environmental stewardship and hazardous waste remediation are key components for long-term solutions, not band-aid shells and leaky liners. Citizen-led organizations are doing everything in their power to advocate for the best outcome. We need our elected representatives to use every option in their toolkits to make this better.

We are asking every Nebraska senator to consider the gravity of this environmental crisis and to provide powerful, lasting solutions in response. Please be diligent about your decisions on all related bills. Thank you for staying committed to your constituents and to all Nebraskans. We are counting on you.

Respectfully,

Megan York Lyons
Co-Director, Natural Resources and Energy, LWVNE