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February 1, 2024

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

RE: LB1370 (Bostelman) Provide requirements for retirement of a dispatchable electric generation facility by an electric supplier.

**OPPOSE** – *Please include this written testimony from the League of Women Voters of Nebraska as part of the public hearing record for LB1370.*

Dear Senator Bostelman and Members of the Natural Resources Committee:

The League of Women Voters of Nebraska believes that energy conservation and the use of renewable resources must be a part of any national or state energy program. Public understanding and cooperation are essential to the success of any program of energy conservation and implementation of technologies that employ generation of energy from renewable resources.

Specifically, the League supports: (1) the use of a variety of energy sources, with emphasis on conserving energy and using energy efficient technologies; and (2) the environmentally sound use of energy resources, with consideration of the entire cycle of energy production. It is for these reasons that we oppose LB1370, which would dictate and limit the type of energy production methods available as the state updates its power infrastructure, including coal and natural gas.

The energy demands that recently affected OPPD's supply of electricity is a good example of using various technologies to produce electricity for the good people of Nebraska.<sup>1</sup> The levels of the Missouri River were too low to rely on the coal plant to produce electricity. One technology is never 100% reliable and the impact of the drought on the Missouri River affected the reliability of the coal-fired plant for OPPD.

New technologies are on the horizon. To restrict the capacity of production of electricity to only known sources is a mistake. Nebraska needs to use current technologies as well as the new methods that are being evaluated to produce electricity. Nebraska needs to evaluate each technology and use the most efficient while reducing the CO2 outputs. As an example, at OPPD, the following sources are used in the complete portfolio of electricity production: low-sulfur coal, wind, community solar, landfill gas, natural gas, fuel oil and hydroelectric.

As new technologies emerge, they should be evaluated and brought online, not only for environmental but also economic reasons. It cannot be predicted what options will be the most effective and affordable in the coming decades. Nebraska should not limit the future by requiring a source of electricity to be replaced by a duplicate of the one being replaced.

For these reasons, The League of Women Voters asks you not to advance LB1370.

Sincerely,

Rachel Gibson, Vice President-Action, LWWNE

Claudia Stevenson, Natural Resources and Energy Director, LWWNE

MaryLee Moulton and Janelle Stevenson, Co-Presidents, LWWNE

<sup>1</sup>Hudson, M. (2024, January 17). Missouri River conditions took some OPPD units offline. What kept the lights on? *KMTV*. <https://www.3newsnow.com/news/local-news/missouri-river-conditions-took-some-oppd-units-offline-what-kept-the-lights-on>