

May 15, 2018

The Honorable Bill Dodd  
State Capitol, Room 5064  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 998 — Discontinuation of residential water service — SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Dodd:

The League of Women Voters of California is pleased to support SB 998, your bill to provide protections for residential water customers at risk of having their water service discontinued. Fluctuating climate conditions, evolving water management strategies, and a rise in California's water rates all contribute to this growing concern for California families.

The League's position on water supports protection of low or fixed income water users by lifeline rates. We previously supported the establishment of a Human Right to Water, as well as your 2015 legislation for funding and implementing the Low-Income Water Rate Assistance Program.

SB 998 addresses the clarity, consistency, practicality, and equity of regulations that currently govern provision of residential water service. It is a necessary and welcome step toward ensuring that all Californians have access to **safe, clean, and affordable water**.

We also recognize that obtaining, treating, and delivering water costs money, and that Proposition 218 places restrictions on what costs providers may be able to recover when they have delinquent ratepayers. We are pleased to see that you addressed water agency concerns related to Prop 218 in recent amendments to the bill, and we trust you will continue to advocate that water agencies can operate in ways that are as fair as possible for all their customers.

Sincerely,



Helen L. Hutchison  
President