



Testimony submitted to the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and  
Agriculture

In Support of S.556 and H.937, An Act providing for the public health by establishing an  
ecologically based mosquito management program in the Commonwealth

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The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that natural resources should be managed as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems. Resources should be conserved and protected to assure their future availability. Currently, the practices for control of mosquitos to prevent diseases, and sometime just because of nuisance issues, is not coordinated across the state or even smaller regions and is not using Department of Public Health (DPH) best practices.

The existing state mosquito control board legislation and regulations need to be fundamentally reformed to emphasize public health as the primary goal consistent with environmental protections of pollinators and other wildlife. This reform needs to include uniform sensible ways for municipalities to obtain the services they need and maintain appropriate local controls.

Fundamental reform of legislation governing mosquito control in Massachusetts is needed to update the programs and make them consistent with the best available public health based operating standards. The Department of Fish and Game has the expertise in ecological management for mosquito control and needs to have a key role in developing and implementing best management practices (BMP) for mosquito control. Focusing on larvae and not adults by working with municipalities to eliminate stagnant water areas through better storm water and stream flows would provide a major improvement without the health hazards of chemical spraying.

Adequate funding needs to be provided to continue to refine BMPs, monitoring protocols, and computerized recordkeeping to form an integrated statewide system, replacing the outdated and inefficient paper recordkeeping. With the increasing risks of mosquito-borne diseases caused by climate change, this reform cannot wait.

S.556/H.937 is a major new policy bill written by those with expertise in natural resource protections and in regulatory process. The LWVMA, with 47 local Leagues from Capes Cod and Ann to the Berkshires, supports this bill and asks that you favorably report this bill out of committee.

Thank you for your consideration.