

Feb. 1, 2015

House Finance Committee

Re: **HB 634**, relative to applying the interest and dividends tax to trusts, increasing exemptions, and extending the tax to capital gains; and relative to homeowners property tax relief

Dear Chair Norman Majors and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters New Hampshire has a strong position, adopted after much study, for a system of reliable and progressive taxation to provide for the services needed by the residents of New Hampshire. We are a non-partisan organization with members throughout the state committed to having services such as mental health care, rehabilitative corrections, good education, reliable infrastructure and other positive aspects of New Hampshire receive adequate funding.

It is for that reason that the League of Women Voters urges you to vote **Ought to Pass on HB 634**, a common sense measure to expand the tax base in a progressive rather than regressive fashion. Particularly appealing are the increases in exemptions from these taxes in sections 77:5, 77:4, and 198:57 that would benefit low and moderate income families in particular.

We will leave dealing with the “weeds” of this bill to those far more familiar with the details of interest and dividends and capital gains taxes. We do, however, encourage the committee to consider this proposal in light of New Hampshire's need to fund services and infrastructure in a fiscally sound and morally equitable manner.

Sincerely,

Liz Tentarelli, co-president
League of Women Voters NH