

# ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES *of* OREGON

Interchurch Center, Suite B ■ 0245 SW Bancroft Street ■ Portland, Oregon 97239  
phone (503) 221-1054 ■ fax (1503) 223-7007 ■ Web site [www.emoregon.org](http://www.emoregon.org)

## **Testimony of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon in Support of the Clean Fuels, Senate Bill 488 to the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee, March 18, 2013**

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) and its Oregon Interfaith Power and Light Program (OIPL) support the passage of SB 488. The Oregon Legislature rightfully set greenhouse gas emission reduction goals for the state. OIPL's mission is to engage the faith community to strive for accountability in our individual and collective energy decisions in an interdependent world. We work with over 500 congregations throughout Oregon with programs to improve household and congregational energy efficiency, advance renewable energy and advocate for sound energy and climate policy. The Oregon Clean Fuels Program (OCFP) reduces overall transportation sector fuel emissions to meet these goals, while improving local air quality and bolstering good-paying jobs across the state. Oregon sends more than \$6 billion out of state each year to import gasoline and diesel, money that by and large doesn't benefit our state economy.

By participating on the Advisory Committee for the Program, EMO and OIPL saw the evolution of Oregon Administrative Rules 340-253-0000 through 340-253-307 into a solid foundation for building a more ethical fuel supply throughout the state. These rules provide a fuel market choice for source alternatives to a petroleum supply increasingly derived from the destructive mining, processing, and shipment of tar sands from Alberta. With the OCFP, Oregonians have the opportunity to replace some of these high-carbon low-quality bitumen products, shipped by more pipelines and rail cars going over the Rocky Mountains and down the I-5 corridor, with advanced biofuels derived from products in the state and region that better meet the carbon performance standard.

Please do not set an arbitrary 250,000 gallons per year 'small importers' threshold for reporting. A large opportunity for gaming the system, without adequate checks on accuracy or contract shuffling, will occur if this high threshold is adopted.

The OCFP will only be effective if the Legislature removes the 2015 sunset. Removing the sunset is essential for the full success program, and for Oregon to meet the GHG emission goals the Legislature itself has set for the state.

We see a moral imperative for Oregon to stay in its leadership role in providing a cleaner fuels choice for its citizens. Air quality and climate disruption caused by dirty fuels are of deep concern to us because the health of the most vulnerable--the sick, the young, the old and people with low incomes--is affected disproportionately. These dirty fuels also damage the integrity of a wondrous Creation and its life supporting systems. The religious values of justice, stewardship, the sacredness of Creation and protection of the vulnerable undergird our position. Thank you for the opportunity to share our views on the necessity of providing a more ethical fuel supply for Oregonians. We will be watching the progress of SB 488 closely and keeping our statewide network informed and on alert.

Jenny Holmes, EMO Environmental Ministries and OIPL Director

### MEMBER DENOMINATIONS

African Methodist Episcopal Church ■ American Baptist Churches ■ Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Oregon ■ Christian Methodist Episcopal Church  
■ Church of the Brethren ■ Community of Christ ■ Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon ■ Episcopal Diocese of Oregon  
■ Evangelical Lutheran Church in America ■ Greek Orthodox Church ■ Presbytery of the Cascades ■ Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)  
■ Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Portland ■ United Church of Christ ■ United Methodist Church in Oregon  
■ Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches