

Oregon Faith Leaders for Clean Electricity

Dear Oregon Legislators:

Each one of us has the moral responsibility to act on climate change. Our actions now will determine how habitable Creation, will remain for today's children and youth, and their children. Oregon can and must do its part to reduce climate pollution by accelerating the transition to clean energy. We are thankful that our state continues its leadership in environmental stewardship by finding innovative, effective and collaborative ways to reduce our state impacts on greenhouse gas emissions.

In the true Oregon spirit of partnership, our major electric utilities, consumer advocates and environmental organizations collaborated to craft the agreement reflected in House Bill 4036 (2016). We enthusiastically support the agreement known as the Oregon Clean Electricity and Coal Transition Plan and ask for your vote in favor of the legislation. It is one of several important pieces of policy that together will reduce climate pollution and create prosperous clean energy future for Oregon.

Looking around the nation and the world -- from the recent global agreement in Paris to the finalization of the federal Clean Power Plan -- it is not hard to see people are finally taking climate action seriously. We faith-based leaders of the Pacific Northwest, support transitioning coal-fired generation out of the electricity served to Oregon customers, investing in renewable energy, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions while maintaining and protecting the affordability and reliability of the electric power service on which our communities depend.

The Clean Electricity and Coal Transition Plan will make a difference. It will dramatically reduce emissions in Oregon due to electricity generation and will put us on a path to meeting our state greenhouse gas reduction goals. Oregon should seize the opportunity to maintain a national advantage in forward-looking energy policy. We should take responsibility for our impact on global climate change and take action to clean up our fair share from electricity generation. Many congregations have made energy efficiency improvements in their worship facilities and a few have installed solar electric systems. Community solar provisions of the Transition Plan would allow faith congregations do even more by hosting or investing in installations that would allow everyone to invest in and benefit from local solar energy, especially people with low-incomes.

We can create a healthy climate and a stronger, more resilient economy by fostering innovation, advancing public health, spurring economic development through job creation and speeding technological advancement throughout our region.

We urge our elected representatives to pass HB 4036 and put Oregon on a path for a prosperous clean energy future. You will be leaving a legacy that will make your children and grandchildren proud and that honors the Creator.

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