



## Oregon Unitarian Universalist Voices for Justice

-- congregations doing justice together

February 7, 2018

To: Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
Chair Senator Michael Dembrow  
House Committee on Energy and Environment  
Chair Representative Ken Helms

Re: Testimony for HB4001 and SB1507 -- Clean Energy Jobs Bill  
Public Hearing scheduled 2/7/2018  
Email: [senr.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:senr.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov)

Senator Dembrow and Representative Helm:

I represent *Oregon Unitarian Universalist Voices for Justice (OUUVJ)* -- we are a group that lives our Unitarian Universalist (UU) faith through social action. Our faith tells us that what we do here on earth, how we live our lives, and care for others, matters. We feel compelled to act to make Oregon a better place.

This year OUUVJ selected **The Clean Energy Jobs Bill** for our Legislative Issue Focus Team. We selected it as the one issue coming before the Oregon Legislature that is most likely to make a difference for Oregonians and our nation. We selected the Clean Energy Jobs Bill because:

- we all bear a responsibility, and moral duty, to combat climate change.
- we are proud of Oregon's environmental leadership and legacy. We honor those who have gone before us by continuing to preserve and protect our ecosystems. Oregon's forests, deserts and grasslands, farms, wine industry and water supply are threatened by climate change.
- the market mechanism has been well vetted. The bill has had years of development. It is both innovative and well-tested. It gives large energy consuming and generating companies predictability and a regulated market for decision-making.
- it generates revenue that can be used on carbon reduction projects. The revenue from this bill will go toward rural and under-represented communities who are most at risk from climate change.
- it honors Oregon commitments made after the United States withdrew from the Paris Climate Agreement. Our state is now a part of the United States Climate Alliance and has promised to shoulder some of the responsibility for reducing climate change.
- it connects us to California, Washington, and British Columbia by creating a similar regulatory framework.

In my visits with Unitarian Universalist congregations this year, I've been surprised by how well known this legislation is in our congregations. One of our faith tenets is a commitment to the "interconnected web of which we are a part". It gives our faith movement a particular connection to systemic solutions. Also, UU's have a spiritual connection to nature. For many of them a walk in nature is like going to church. Because UU's have been early adopters of the idea that climate change is a real threat, they fear that time is running out. They care deeply about this bill.

We are proud of Oregon and its progressive legacy. We love this state. We congratulate those who have shepherded this bill slowly and surely to where it is now. We thank all the signers and endorsers. We feel that it is ready. It won't be better next year! **We are alarmed by all the voices being raised saying that a short session is not the place for doing real business.** Postponement is a bad idea. We are feeling climate change now and seeing it with our own eyes. We have statistics that augment our senses. We urge you to move this bill forward quickly and allow a vote.

Sincerely,



The Rev. Katie Larsell

Executive Director  
Oregon Unitarian Universalist Voices for Justice

