

ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES *of* OREGON

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February 21, 2018

Chair Williamson, Vice-Chairs McLane and Rayfield and Members of the Committee,

I write on behalf of the EMO board of directors in support of HB 4001 and SB 1507A, as passed by the House Committee on Energy and Environment and the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, respectively.

EMO is a statewide association of Christian denominations, congregations, ecumenical organizations and interfaith partners working together to improve the lives of Oregonians. We do this through community ministry programs, ecumenical and interreligious dialogue and public policy advocacy.

The EMO board believes we are called to live out a prophetic vision that prioritizes protecting the most vulnerable communities in our society and the abundant Creation in which we have the privilege to live. Our state's approach to addressing climate change currently falls short of this vision.

People with low incomes, our children, communities of color and rural communities suffer the most from climate pollution. We pay with missed work days and medical expenses from lung disease, allergies and asthma attacks. We pay with record-breaking wildfires that destroy the forests that support local jobs and provide soulful respite, with droughts that hurt farmers and raise food prices and with acidification of the Pacific Ocean that puts at risk the economic and ecological stability of the Oregon Coast.

We recognize Oregon's proud legacy of environmental stewardship, a legacy deserving of its people and of a land of such profound beauty and natural abundance. Our fellow Oregonians and this natural beauty demand our utmost compassion and care, and our faiths implore us to reach far higher to meet this responsibility.

As proud Oregonians, we believe HB 4001 and SB 1507A embrace Oregon's unique opportunity to lead the clean energy revolution at a time when state-led environmental action is so desperately needed.

We call on the Oregon Legislature to protect the environment and our communities by passing the Clean Energy Jobs bill in 2018.

Sincerely,

Britt Conroy
Public Policy Director, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon