Dear Co-chairs Dembrow and Power and members of the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction,

Through a membership of 15 denominations and over 150 congregations, organizations, and interfaith partners, Ecumenical Ministries serves hundreds of thousands of diverse members of the faith community all across Oregon.

Our members share a core and common belief in our obligations as God's stewards to use the resources of nature wisely and with reverence and to preserve God's bounty for all generations to come. We also share a commitment to truth and honesty.

In truth, we are in the midst of a global environmental crisis. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change recently concluded that human caused greenhouse gas emissions must be reduced from 2010 levels by 45% by 2030 and by 100% by 2050 to preserve even a modestly reasonable chance of avoiding dangerous climate change, which, by definition, would threaten human civilization.

Lamentably, the environmental crisis extends beyond climate. The ecosystems that sustain all life have been severely compromised by centuries of industrialization and human expansion. Sixty percent of the world's wildlife has been eradicated in the last 40 years. There is literally no ecologically significant wilderness left in Oregon. We are approaching a mass extinction event on a scale last seen when the dinosaurs died out some 65 million years ago.

It is therefore critically important to Ecumenical Ministries that the Oregon legislature passes HB 2020, the Clean Energy Jobs bill, this year, as drafted, and without weakening the scope and pace of its mandatory greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

While more is necessary, HB 2020 will reduce greenhouse gas pollution in Oregon by approximately 2 million metric tons per year. Lower emissions will lead to better air quality, improving the health and welfare of many Oregonians, especially children and the elderly. Additionally, the bill will provide for needed investments in pollution reduction and economic development for low-income and rural communities, tribes, communities of color, and for job training and a just transition for displaced fossil fuel workers.

Fossil fuel interests will seek to weaken the bill or to delay action on the climate crisis entirely to preserve their profits, but they are standing on shaky moral ground.

First, we are responsible for the greenhouse gases we emit. We must reduce our emissions at the rates necessary to avoid dangerous climate change. This is our basic stewardship obligation as Oregonians. We cannot avoid our obligation or shirk it simply because other states or nations are addressing the climate crisis differently.

Second, the Clean Energy Jobs bill is carefully tailored to protect Oregon's industries in the global marketplace while investing in the new, clean energy economy of the 21st

century in ways that will improve the overall wellbeing of our people and environments. The necessary transition to the 21st century clean energy economy will, in truth, require sacrifice and transformative change. The Clean Energy Jobs bill is not a miracle cure for all our ills, but it outlines an effective and just way forward for Oregonians to begin to address our responsibility for the climate crisis. The alternative—failing to act and therefore condemning our children, grandchildren and future generations to the ravages of dangerous climate change—is unthinkable.

Finally, through our partners at Interfaith Power and Light, Ecumenical Ministries encourages congregations to go the extra mile with their practices of environmental stewardship. By purchasing green power, improving energy efficiency, and going solar, many congregations are voluntarily reducing their greenhouse gas pollution consistent with the Paris Climate Agreement's goal of limiting warming to 1.5°C. These voluntary measures are inspiring, sacrificial, visionary, and the right thing to do as God's stewards. Please follow the lead of these congregations by passing the Clean Energy Jobs Bill.

Thank you,

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, Creation Justice Programs