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Chair Marsh, Vice-Chair Brock Smith, Vice-Chair Helm and members of the Committee:

Through eight service programs and a membership of 15 denominations and over 150 congregations, organizations, and interfaith partners, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) and Oregon Interfaith Power & Light (OIPL) serve hundreds of thousands of diverse members of the faith community all across the state.

Guided by our work with low-income communities across Oregon, as well as our commitment to ensuring creation justice, EMO/OIPL wishes to state our strong support for HB 2180. This bill is an important step in meeting our transportation system's aggressive goals for electric vehicle deployment and GHG emission reductions. For decades, Oregon's transportation system has prioritized fossil fuel-burning vehicles and is now Oregon's biggest source of greenhouse gas emissions. This bill is a commonsense first step that will reverse these environmentally destructive trends, help the Department of Transportation progress toward its EV deployment goals under SB 1044, and benefit Oregonians' environments and wallets along the way.

Further, HB 2180 promises important equity benefits, particularly for those populations traditionally excluded from EV ownership. The inclusion of new multifamily units in this bill means that non-homeowners, who in Oregon are disproportionately low-income people and people of color, will still have access to electric vehicle charging stations. This bill, in concert with other legislation intended to bring down the cost of EVs, promises to make participation in a clean transportation system a possibility for everyone.

We hope and pray your legislative deliberations maintain focus on caring for marginalized Oregonians, especially communities overburdened by transportation-related pollution, and we pray for your health and safety in this time of pandemic. Know that your gatherings are covered in our prayers as you represent us and make decisions that shape our collective future.

Sincerely yours,

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon/Oregon Interfaith Power & Light,  
Creation Justice Programs