

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon

February 22, 2023

Re: HB 3166 support

Chair Marsh, Vice-Chair Bobby Levy, Vice-Chair Emerson Levy, and members of the House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment,

Board Members

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Chair

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Chair-elect

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The Rev. Charlotte Wells

The Rev. Dr. Rodney Page
Lifetime Member

Frank So
President

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon and Oregon Interfaith Power & Light (EMO and OIPL) would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 3166. EMO consists of 15 member denominations and over 150 congregations, faith-based organizations, and institutions. We also partner with groups and individuals from many faith traditions to form Oregon Interfaith Power & Light.

EMO and OIPL support HB 3166, which will create a single resource for accessing incentives and benefits, and which will develop a whole-home energy savings program to increase energy efficiency, renewable energy, and other measures that make Oregonian homes more prepared for the eventualities of climate change. We advocated alongside many others for strong renewable energy and environmental justice support at the federal level, such as the Inflation Reduction Act. We would like to see these benefits reach Oregonians, particularly those in low-income communities, communities of color, traditionally disadvantaged groups.

It is exciting to see so many rebates, grants, and other incentive programs available, but as someone who community members ask for advice about how to make their homes and faith community buildings more sustainable, it would be immensely helpful to be able to offer one location for people to look for incentives for which they might qualify. A “one-stop shop” such as the tool this bill envisions would be something I would use regularly and which would make these incentive programs feel much more attainable for individuals and groups I work with who do not have extra time to research available benefits.

We are also in support of the whole-home energy savings program and high-efficiency electric home rebate program. This would bring cost saving appliances and home retrofits within reach of low- and moderate-income Oregonians. We approve of these measures to increase public health, lower household utility costs, and reduce our state's greenhouse gas emissions.

Sincerely,

Cherice Bock, MDiv, MS environmental studies
Creation Justice Advocate
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon
Oregon Interfaith Power & Light

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