

Submitter: Peter Fargo
On Behalf Of: Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

On behalf of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's environmental justice program, I'm writing to ask the Joint Ways and Means Committee to continue funding for Climate Resilience Hubs (HB 3170) as well as higher-education programs that provide key expertise, information, and technical support to strengthen Oregon's climate resilience.

We highlighted HB 3170 during our Oregon Interfaith Earth Summit in March, where over 400 people gathered at 18 locations across the state. Earth Summit participants prepared testimony in support of climate resilience hubs and networks. They also engaged in workshops on building community climate resilience and preparing for climate-related disasters, such as heat waves. Our communities need more public funding to continue this life-saving work. To that end, we urge you to hold large fossil fuel companies financially responsible for their contributions to climate chaos, so the rest of us will have the funding necessary to adapt.

To illustrate the valuable roles of higher-education institutions in climate resilience work, our Earth Summit event in La Grande was co-facilitated by Dr. Paul Nauert, EOU professor and environmental historian. Additionally, the keynote speakers for our statewide event included Dr. Erica Fleishman, Director of the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute (OCCRI), and Dr. Larry O'Neill, Director of the Oregon Climate Service (OCS). Both programs are hosted by Oregon State University and provide essential information to help our state and communities adapt more effectively to climate change. The OSU Extension Service is another important program that serves Eastern Oregon and counties across the state.

Please continue to support the climate, environment, and natural resource programs hosted by our Oregon universities and community colleges.

Very respectfully,

Peter Fargo
Environmental Justice Coordinator
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon