

# Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon

## Oregon Faith Movement

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February 11, 2022

Senator Kate Lieber, Chair  
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

Chair Lieber, Vice-Chair Findley, and members of the committee,

Committed to mutual respect and understanding, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) and Oregon Interfaith Power and Light (OIPL) brings together communities of faith to learn, serve, and advocate for justice, peace, and the integrity of creation. Through a membership of 15 denominations and over 150 congregations, organizations, and interfaith partners, EMO serves hundreds of thousands of diverse members of the faith community all across the state.

Our members share a core and common belief in our obligations to each other and to the Earth. As such, EMO/OIPL continually advocates for measurable emissions reductions that are consistent with the demands of our children and youth and the recommendations of the world's best climate scientists.

EMO/OIPL was proud to advocate for the historic climate legislation that passed in last year's session, and recognizes that we cannot afford to take a year off from advancing climate justice in Oregon. Therefore, **EMO/OIPL is strongly in support of SB 1518, the "Reach Code " bill, which would allow for the creation of efficient, weatherized homes and buildings to help keep pollution and smoke out, keep cooling and heating in, and cut down on energy bills.**

Buildings and their construction are the second-largest, and longest-lived, source of air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, and energy waste behind the transportation sector, according to the United Nations [Environment Program](#). As most building related carbon emissions come from energy usage, the first line of defense in addressing emissions is energy efficient design.

Current state law is holding communities back from enacting a more robust energy efficiency standard for new homes and buildings. Cities such as Bend, Hood River, and Beaverton are growing rapidly, which is why it is imperative they are given the ability to ensure that new-construction homes and commercial buildings are built cleaner and more efficiently.

SB 1518 would allow Oregon cities to choose climate action by opting into stronger energy efficiency building standards within their

jurisdictions, reducing their climate pollution and increasing their livability for today and generations to come.

In a Joint Message for the Protection of Creation, signed by Pope Francis, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, Catholic, Anglican, and Eastern Orthodox leaders remind us that, “We are cautioned against adopting short term and seemingly inexpensive options of building on sand, instead of building on rock for our common home to withstand storms (Mt. 7.24 -27).

Please know we are holding you in our prayers this legislative session.

Sincerely,

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