

ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES *of* OREGON

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December 12, 2006

Dear Governor Kulongoski:

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, and the Oregon Interfaith Global Warming Campaign (OIGWC), have been privileged to be represented on three of your major global warming advisory bodies:

1. Advisory Group on Global Warming
2. Carbon Allocation Task Force
3. Climate Change Integration Group

We think your leadership on this comprehensive approach to climate change has been one of the most important undertakings of your governorship, and we are pleased with the progress to date.

To continue with the timely implementation of a policy that is effective in meeting your global warming pollution reduction goals, we support the median position that the Carbon Allocation Task Force has forwarded to you. The Task Force's recommendations most importantly demonstrate that:

- a) A load-based cap-and-trade regime for Oregon's electricity sector is feasible.
- b) Implementation of the cap-and-trade system would likely *reduce* overall power bills to Oregon's residents and businesses. This bill reduction result is not surprising, since it mirrors similar climate policy model results in other parts of the country, including the extensive modeling that was undertaken for the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative in the northeast states.

While we do not fully embrace each and every specific technical design of the so-called "flexibility" mechanisms in the "median" position, as we feel some of these may potentially compromise the ability of the overall "median" position to actually achieve your 2020 goal, we do support the "median" position as the basis to design an effective system.

But most importantly, we do not support any delay in enacting the "cap-and-trade" proposal. In 2004, our vote on the Advisory Group strongly endorsed the directive that this Task Force "provide the Governor with its recommendation in time for legislative action, if necessary, in the 2007 session." We want to reinforce that the 2007 timing is urgent so that you, the state agencies, the OPUC, and the Legislature move immediately to prevent any backsliding in global warming pollution. We believe enactment of this proposal in the 2007 Legislative session, as recommended by the Advisory Group, will help prevent backsliding on global warming pollution in Oregon's electricity sector.

The religious voice on global warming is rooted in the recognition that creation is a sacred gift entrusted to our stewardship and in the call to justice for the most vulnerable among us. We have participated in and supported your efforts because stewardship of our common heritage is a responsibility of faith. We are also leading by example through our Oregon Interfaith Power and Light project which works to reduce the carbon footprint of religious facilities and member households and to support renewable energy. Thank you once again for allowing us this privilege of sharing our voice in your comprehensive effort to lead Oregon on a wise course through the global warming pollution challenge.

Sincerely,

David Leslie
Executive Director

Jenny Holmes
Environmental Ministries Director

James Edelson
Steering Committee Member, OIGWC

MEMBER DENOMINATIONS

African Methodist Episcopal Church ■ African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church ■ American Baptist Churches ■ Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Christian Methodist Episcopal Church ■ Church of the Brethren ■ Community of Christ ■ Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon ■ Episcopal Diocese of Oregon
Oregon Evangelical Lutheran Church in America ■ Greek Orthodox Church ■ Presbyterian Church (USA) ■ Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Portland ■ United Church of Christ ■ United Methodist Church ■ Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches