



Dear Oregon Legislators and Governor Brown,

As faith leaders and as Oregonians, we are called to live out a prophetic vision that prioritizes protecting the most vulnerable communities in our society and the abundant Creation in which we have the privilege to live.

Our state's approach to addressing climate change currently falls short of this vision, and we write to show our support for legislation that repairs our compact with each other and our natural home.

People with low incomes, our children, communities of color and rural communities suffer the most from climate pollution. We pay with missed work days and medical expenses from lung disease, allergies and asthma attacks. We pay with record-breaking wildfires that destroy the forests that support local jobs and provide soulful respite, with droughts that hurt farmers and raise food prices and with acidification of the Pacific Ocean that puts at risk the economic and ecological stability of the Oregon Coast.

We recognize Oregon's proud legacy of environmental stewardship, a legacy deserving of its people and of a land of such profound beauty and natural abundance. Our fellow Oregonians and this natural beauty demand our utmost compassion and care, and our faiths implore us to reach far higher to meet this responsibility. The Jewish and Christian traditions teach that Adam and Eve were asked "to till and to tend" the Garden of Eden (Genesis 2:15). We believe humans remain a partner in Creation and that we fulfill this mandate by a practice of "Tikkun Olam," meaning "repairing the world."¹

Mindful of our faith traditions and our commitment to one another, we support the Clean Energy Jobs Bill. This legislation provides Oregon an opportunity to cap and then ratchet down Oregon's climate pollution. Currently, Oregon has limits on emissions in its laws, but they are not being enforced.

The Clean Energy Jobs Bill also places a price on carbon emission, spurring climate-friendly business practices and entrepreneurship, while investing the proceeds in creating clean energy jobs and limiting pollution throughout Oregon, especially in the communities hardest hit by climate change. Such strategic investments enable us to live out our faith values, such as the holistic Islamic concept "rahmatan lil alamin," meaning blessing for the whole world and of all creation, which necessitates that we share the world fairly with all mankind, and the call in the Bible to "pursue justice and champion the oppressed (Isaiah 1:17)."²

As proud Oregonians, we believe the Clean Energy Jobs Bill embraces Oregon's unique opportunity to lead the clean energy revolution at a time when state-led environmental action is so desperately needed. We would join our West coast partners in a powerful alliance for climate protection and economic opportunity.

¹ From "Jewish Community Priorities for Climate and Energy Policy 2008 of the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life"

² Using excerpts from "Conclusions and Recommendations of the First International Conference on Muslim Action on Climate Change" and "The Rahmatan Lil Alamin in Islamic Law and Economics"

We agree with Pope Francis in Laudato Si that "the climate is a common good, belonging to all and meant for all...There is need to develop policies so that, in the next few years, the emissions of carbon dioxide and other polluting gases can be drastically reduced."¹

We call on the Oregon Legislature to protect our communities and Creation by passing the Clean Energy Jobs Bill in 2018.

Sincerely,

Title

Name

Congregation

Address (Street, City, Zip)

Email

Phone

[Please return to Caren Caldwell: caren97520@yahoo.com]

¹ *Laudato Si: On Care of Our Common Home*