

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon

Oregon Faith Movement

Board Members

The Rev. Michael Grogan
Chair

The Rev. Roberta Egli
Chair-elect

The Rev. Linda Jaramillo
Immediate Past Chair

The Rev. Paul Belz-Templeman
Treasurer

Barbara O'Hare
Secretary

The Rev. Catherine Allard
The Rev. Andrew Bansemer
Shawn Daley
The Rev. Ernestine Flemister
Charles Hudson
Alaide Ibarra

The Rev. Beverly Jackson
The Rev. Dr. Mark Knutson
The Rev. Sean Langdon
The Very Rev. Nathan LeRud
The Rev. Erika Marksbury
Patty Nance
The Rev. Cecil Prescod
Peter Sergienko
The Rev. Dr. William Sinkford
Jane Snyder
Pedro Sosa

The Rev. Dr. Rodney Page
Lifetime Member

The Rev. Andrea Cano
Interim President

Interchurch Center
245 S. Bancroft St., Ste. B
Portland, Oregon 97239

phone (503) 221-1054
fax (503) 223-7007
email emo@emoregon.org
website EMOregon.org

February 1, 2022

Representative Pam Marsh, Chair
House Interim Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Chair Marsh and Committee Members,

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.

We urge you to support HB 4058 with the -2 amendment, a bill that will protect the health and safety of Oregon families by increasing access to life-saving and efficient cooling and air-filtration devices.

As people of faith, we are united by a core and common obligation to serve one another and the Earth. We are compelled to stand up for our most vulnerable brothers and sisters, who experience the dangerous effects of climate change first and worst. In last summer's unprecedented climate-fueled heat wave, at least 96 Oregonians died and countless others suffered across 28 Oregon cities. The majority of those people died alone in overheated apartments because they did not have access to life-saving cooling technology.

Scripture tells us that the home is an essential foundation for building virtuous societies: "My people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest" (Isaiah 32:18). Yet in last summer's heat wave, it was clear that many of our neighbors' homes were not adequately equipped to provide refuge from deadly weather conditions.

As extreme heat and wildfire events become increasingly common in summers to come, HB 4058-2 will help ensure our most vulnerable communities are prepared for and protected by increasing access to life-saving cooling devices - energy efficient air conditioners and electric heat pumps - and air filtration devices.

We hope and pray your legislative deliberations maintain focus on caring for all Oregonians, especially low-income families and renters, environmental justice communities, seniors and people with disabilities.

Sincerely yours,

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