



March 26th Testimony, SJR 28

To: Senators Kayse Jama, Chair; Daniel Bonham, Vice-Chair; and Members of the Senate Committee on Rules, Jeff Golden, James Manning Jr., and Kim Thatcher.

There is no economy without nature.

There is no success without repeated effort! I urge you to pass SJR 28. I urge you, ***do not be dismayed!*** Try, and try again! We must ever step onward with our hearts and earnest efforts directed now and always toward re-establishment of a healthy environment that our communities, our economies, and all people need to thrive.

I write from Ashland, Oregon. My official voice today represents Oregon Interfaith Power and Light, which is nested in Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon.

In April 2024, The United Methodist Church body held its international legislative meeting, after 8 years, to pass a slate of new legislation—rules that govern our lives as United Methodists in faith together. Over those two weeks last Spring, General Conference delegates voted **OVERWHELMINGLY** for the denomination to address care of the creation—our environment—urgently, and with specific actions.

The United Methodist Denomination instituted that there should be Green Teams at local churches and regional administration centers (called conferences), and affirmed care of church lands and rewilding/native replanting projects, passed updated energy policies naming the harms of fossil fuels and environmental degradation, urged mobilization for a green transition, pledged to achieve net zero, and mandated every regional organizing body (including Oregon) to establish a Caretaker of God's Creation coordinator to ensure that Creation care and stewardship is taught as a priority effort across the Church.

This work is amplified across denominations with and through national and international faith networks such as Interfaith Power and Light. In every recognized tradition, the Earth and all life is sacred. The cry of concern for the environment rises, with efforts to address the environmental crisis bringing people of faith together across counties, denominations, and worship communities in Oregon.

My official voice today represents Oregon Interfaith Power and Light. I write also as a person of faith, ordained clergy in the United Methodist tradition, an Oregonian, and as a member of the board of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, Chair of the Creation Justice Committee, and Oregon Interfaith Power and Light.

Thank you for your time and this hearing. I regret not being able to attend in person, as I am pre-committed in California at a Summit on fossil fuel divestment in the United Methodist Church.

Rev. Richenda Fairhurst
Oregon Interfaith Power and Light.
Ashland, Oregon