



ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES

— OF OREGON —

March 28, 2025

Senator Jama, Vice Chair Bonham, and the other members of the Senate Rules Committee,

My name is [Jeff Hammarlund](#). I am a semi-retired professor, but still a senior fellow, at the Mark Hatfield School of Government at Portland State University, where I taught graduate and professional development courses in energy and natural resource policy for over 25 years. However, I wear many hats, and one of them is as a proud member of the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon Creation Justice Committee. I have been authorized to submit this testimony on behalf of EMO and its Creation Justice Committee.

EMO is a founding member of the [Oregon Coalition for an Environmental Rights Amendment \(OCERA\)](#), and I have the honor of representing them on the OCERA Strategy Team. EMO is an enthusiastic supporter of SJR 28, and if you visit the OCERA website you will see the many other faith-based groups that are also OCERA supporters.

EMO has 16 member denominations and at least 90 faith partners located in every part of the state. On March 16, we hosted our 12th annual [Interfaith Earth Summit on Climate Safety and Health](#). A record-breaking number of 414 people attended in person or on Zoom, including 209 newcomers. They participated through a network of 18 faith hubs located throughout the state. Last year, over 1,400 people donated their time to EMO programs. Oregon's faith community is broad and diverse. It includes people who consider themselves to be politically conservative, liberal, fervently non-political, and everything in between.

Due to the Trump Administration's alarming environmental policies, there's been a dramatic upturn in interest in this and related bills by members of the faith community and other concerned citizens. There is no perfect antidote to counter efforts by the federal government to weaken or ignore its responsibilities. However, SRJ 28 is one of the best tools at our disposal to help Oregonians protect the air, water, and climate in our state.

So don't count out the members of Oregon's faith community when it comes to educating and mobilizing Oregon voters. When the call is there, we know how to deliver in partnership with others.



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I will close by wearing my retired professor hat. Nearly 2,000 of my former students hold positions in the energy, climate protection, and natural resource fields. Quite a few have encouraged me to support this bill. They believe it will enhance their ability to do their jobs, when they have not always been able to do so in the past because of budget cuts and changing priorities. Their pleas played a major role in convincing me to become an active supporter of this very important bill.

I am saddened by the misinformation I heard from some lobbyists representing corporate interests during the hearing. In a couple of instances, the people who offered misleading information on behalf of industry groups are former students of mine. I am confident they know better, so I cannot help but wince when I observe them say things they know not to be true simply because they are “just doing their job.” All of us need to contribute to the collective effort to be good stewards of the environment and help to protect God’s wonderful creation.

Respectfully,

Jeff Hammarlund, member EMO Creation Justice Committee, and retired professor of energy and natural resource policy