

Submitter: Peter Fargo
On Behalf Of: Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee
On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5525

On behalf of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, I am writing to ask the Joint Committee to continue funding higher-education programs that provide essential expertise, research, and technical support to strengthen Oregon's climate resilience.

At our Oregon Interfaith Earth Summit in March, over 400 people gathered at 18 locations across the state. Earth Summit participants prepared testimony in support of climate resilience hubs and networks. They also engaged in workshops on building community climate resilience and preparing for climate-related disasters, such as heat waves and wildfires.

Keynote speakers for the Earth Summit included Dr. Erica Fleishman, Director of the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute (OCCRI), and Dr. Larry O'Neill, Director of the Oregon Climate Service (OCS). Both programs are hosted by Oregon State University and provide important and highly relevant information to help our state and communities adapt more effectively to climate change.

Thank you for the important work that you do as legislators to protect our communities from climate change disasters. Please support the higher-education programs that inform this work and make all of us more effective in our preparation and response.

Very respectfully,

Peter Fargo
Environmental Justice Program
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