Dear Friend of Oregon’s Environment,

Oregon as a state, America as a country, and the planet as a whole are facing huge challenges, including the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic, a moral reckoning with racial and economic injustices, and the acceleration of climate change.

But there is reason for optimism—the interconnectedness of these challenges means that the solutions we promote can have multiple beneficial impacts.

OEC’s hope for the future remains intact because we know our efforts to protect the environment have many positive ripple effects. We know that effective environmental policies live at the center of human health, economic sustainability, and social justice.

In a time when ideological differences are deepening, we believe in the power of collaboration. We will continue to find common ground, actively partnering with all Oregonians—of all ages, ethnicities and genders; from rural, urban, suburban and Indigenous communities; of any political affiliation or sovereign interest; and from all walks of life—to create a healthier future for our state.

Together, we must protect what we’ve already won from those who put near-term profit above the long-term well-being of people and planet.

Together, we must lead the response to the environmental challenges of today, which are intertwined with social and economic problems.

Together, we must ensure that historically underrepresented communities are leaders in developing the next generation of solutions so that past injustices can be corrected and all Oregonians can flourish in a healthier environment.

Success is possible only because of the generous support from OEC members and supporters like you. Thank you for joining us in the belief that a healthy, equitable future is possible and that OEC’s work will make a real and abiding difference.

Sincerely,

Diana Nuñez
Executive Director

Philip Wu, MD
Board President
Oregon’s Path Forward

Job Creation
The nation needs to mobilize to create good, high-wage jobs in industries that support environmental sustainability. These jobs must focus on projects that reduce pollution and increase resiliency in those communities most vulnerable to climate change and pollution, and employ people who have so far been left behind in an economy rife with systemic injustices. OEC is looking across our program areas to identify investments that best fit this model and advocating this approach as the state determines how to mitigate the economic impacts of COVID-19.

Equitable Solutions
People of color and Indigenous Oregonians face greater environmental threats. And they are often left out of decision-making that impacts their lives. OEC strives for equitable environmental policies and practices that help reverse these harms and give every Oregonian a fair shot at living in a healthy environment. We advocate for diverse appointments to state and local boards and

inclusive decision-making practices in the policy-making forums we are part of. We support and partner with organizations working to break down systemic and institutional barriers that perpetuate environmental inequities.

Keeping Oregon Strong in Face of Federal Rollbacks
Over the past three years, the Trump Administration has dismantled 68 critical environmental regulations and is pushing for more during the coronavirus pandemic. But, Oregon is holding the line on bedrock environmental protections. Legislation championed by Governor Brown, supported by OEC, and signed into law in 2019—the Oregon Environmental Protection Act—ensures that Oregon will retain the environmental protections that were in place as of January 19, 2017, the day before President Trump took office. With our fellow environmental advocacy organizations across the country, we have also played defense against specific rollbacks and attacks on the environment in Congress.

By the Numbers

| 15,000+ | 2,000+ | 365 | 26 | 11 |
|——-|——-|——-|——-|——-|
| petition signatures collected | contributing members across the state | votes for OEC’s legislative priorities | advisory committees, task forces, and boards served on | coalitions |
Climate Protection

to safeguard our communities and economies

Limiting greenhouse gases, transforming the way we use energy when we live, work, and travel...Oregon’s low-carbon communities will be vibrant, resilient, and affordable.

Establishing the Oregon Climate Action Plan

The Clean Energy Jobs bill—Oregon’s most ambitious climate bill in decades—was thwarted when a cohort of senators fled the state in both 2019 and 2020 to deny the quorum needed for what would have been a successful Senate vote. OEC and our allies worked with Governor Brown to shape a bold, new executive order, the Oregon Climate Action Plan, which establishes scientifically based goals for greenhouse gas reductions and requires state agencies to limit and reduce climate pollution using every tool at their disposal:

• Transportation fuels will emit at least 20% less carbon by 2030 and 25% less by 2035.
• New buildings will be 60% more energy efficient by 2030.
• A cap on major sources of climate pollution which will lead to more innovation.
• Food waste cut in half by 2030.
• New strategies to sequester carbon in forests, wetlands, and agricultural lands.
• Worker protections from wildfire smoke and extreme heat.
• Measures to reduce climate impacts and create benefits for Oregonians most vulnerable to the dangers of climate change.

FORWARD TOGETHER

Working together with members, agencies, and partners across the state, OEC will

• Help implement the Oregon Climate Action Plan and defend it from attack.
• Continue to educate and engage decision makers and build a statewide coalition to develop and advance policies to address the climate crisis.
• Ensure Oregon’s COVID-19 economic recovery plan includes investments in clean, renewable energy and climate resiliency.

Oregon’s climate future is powered by the dedicated support of our members and partners across the state.
Clean and Equitable Transportation

to support safe, sustainable, affordable movement of people and goods

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**OUR VISION:**

A transportation system that supports thriving communities and a healthy environment

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Transportation agencies must address climate and equity

In 2018, we persuaded the Oregon Transportation Commission to formally adopt the Statewide Transportation Strategy (STS) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We continue to advocate for state agencies to implement the STS boldly and quickly through land use and transportation planning and projects. We helped ensure a Portland-area transportation funding mechanism slated for the November 2020 ballot reflects environmental and equity priorities. We are influencing design of congestion pricing to manage existing roads efficiently and expand sustainable and equitable transportation choices.

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The future of transportation is electric

OEC co-advocated for legislation that establishes metrics and reporting requirements for successful adoption of electric vehicles (EVs).

We continue to push for electrification of everything from delivery vehicles to buses, and promote the use of smaller vehicles like electric bicycles to deliver packages in urban cores.

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MOVING FORWARD

As Oregon recovers from COVID-19, OEC will continue to promote EVs, build on the increased interest in bicycling as a socially distanced way to get around, and work to save public transit and make it better than ever. Along with members of the Clean & Just Transportation Coalition, we will ensure state and local governments apply climate and equity lenses to transportation investments.

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Electric vehicles emit no tailpipe pollution, reduce carbon emissions by 70% in Oregon, and cost less to own and operate over their lifecycle.

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The first four years of the Clean Fuels Program

350+

jobs in the clean fuels industry

4 million

tons of climate pollution prevented

900 million

gallons of petroleum displaced
Toxic-Free Environments
to protect human health, starting with children’s health

OUR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH VISION
• Oregon children will live and play in toxic-free environments and use toxic-free products.
• No community will experience disproportionate exposures to toxic pollution.
• Safe environments for children will result in safe environments for everyone.

OUR OUTCOMES

State agencies demand safer products
OEC led the effort to establish a new statewide sustainable procurement program to help state agencies, local governments, and schools purchase safer, greener products.

IMPACT
As agencies shift their spending, market demand for safer alternatives grows and a sustainable manufacturing economy thrives.

Kids will be exposed to fewer toxic chemicals
Since the Toxic-Free Kids Act was passed in 2015, companies have disclosed 66 types of toxic chemicals they are using in the manufacture of children’s products. OEC has been working to ensure the Oregon Health Authority finalizes strong rules to phase out toxic chemicals, without loopholes that would compromise children’s safety.

IMPACT
Fewer children will suffer from asthma, autism, obesity, cancer, and other diseases and disorders linked to exposure to toxics. Healthy kids also learn better, which increases their chances of succeeding in school and beyond.

Dirty diesel engines are on their way out
OEC co-advocated for the second strongest legislation in the country to reduce diesel pollution. The bill will phase out old heavy-duty and medium-duty diesel engines, require cleaner construction equipment on major projects, and apply Volkswagen settlement funds to small and disadvantaged firms to help them comply.

IMPACT
Nearly half of Oregon’s population will be better protected from diesel exhaust, reducing damage to the heart, lungs, and brain and incidence of cancer.

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A TOXIC-FREE FUTURE
• Develop policies and programs to protect children, women of childbearing age, and vulnerable communities from toxic chemicals.
• Work in partnership with affordable housing groups to prepare culturally competent materials to help families reduce their exposure to toxic chemicals with effective, low-cost practices.
• Educate and develop policies to address the main sources of air pollution in Oregon (car and truck tailpipes, residential chimneys, and industry smokestacks).
Clean and Plentiful Water

Our vision for Oregon’s water future includes:

- Investment in natural infrastructure – such as restoring trees along rivers to absorb pollution and provide shade.
- Regionally based projects which take into account local conditions and community expertise to solve local water problems in support of state goals.
- Water justice for communities most impacted by water resource challenges and historically left out of decision making.

OEC is a leading environmental voice at the table when it comes to water decisions in Oregon. We will continue to meet with people and partners from every corner of the state to learn about priorities to ensure equitable decision making around water management. We will continue to provide expertise to regionally-based irrigation and water use projects around the state.

This year, OEC:

- Set the stage for the development of a 100-year investment program for Oregon’s water.
- Worked with local irrigation districts in the Deschutes River Basin to improve irrigation systems, returning 1.2 million gallons of water per day to the river.
- Launched the Oregon Water Futures Project to lift up the values and priorities of Indigenous peoples and communities of color across the state in water policy planning.

In Eastern Oregon, water is critical for the environment and for the rural economy. Effective management of water among farming, municipal, and environmental interests will enable a sustainable future for the region and the state.”

— Marika, Pendleton

“Water is one of our most valuable resources and we need to protect it from ourselves so future generations can see the beauty that water creates.”

—Karlee, Klamath Falls

Clean and Plentiful Water
to support people, fish and wildlife, and rural and urban businesses

Access to safe sources of drinking water...
the ability to recreate in Oregon’s rivers and lakes without health risks... stable groundwater levels... rivers flowing with enough water to support all Oregonians, fish, and wildlife...

Oregon’s water resources must be protected to build resilience in the face of climate change and restore our balance with water.
OEC has served as the fiscal sponsor for the Douglas County Global Warming Coalition since 2004. We provide administrative support to the coalition so that it can focus on catalyzing local and statewide climate action. Members of the coalition publish columns in local papers and work to promote energy efficiency, renewable energy, transportation options, and climate-friendly approaches to forestry. They also frequently travel to Salem to advocate in support of climate legislation.

OEC travels around the state regularly to connect with Oregonians on environmental issues through public presentations.

OEC’s membership spans 28 counties across the state, helping us approach our work with a wide range of voices and perspectives.

The lower Umatilla Basin is one of three river basins in Oregon that has been designated as a “Groundwater Management Area” because of water quality concerns. OEC has been working with a variety of stakeholders to guide science-based efforts to improve groundwater quality and to develop pilot programs to recharge underground aquifers while also meeting irrigation needs.

In order to meet the water needs of fish and wildlife, communities, and agricultural producers, OEC worked with partners in Deschutes County to secure funding for projects that produce more efficient pipes, which can reduce evaporation by approximately 50%. This has returned millions of gallons of water to the Deschutes River, protecting endangered fish.

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Partnerships

**RURAL**
OEC seeks to break through the so-called “urban-rural divide” in our work. OEC builds relationships with rural organizations and leaders, promotes civic engagement of rural Oregonians, supports regional decision-making that meets statewide goals, and ensures that the policies we promote encompass the social, economic, and environmental interests of both urban and rural communities.

**LABOR**
OEC co-chairs the Oregon BlueGreen Alliance, a unique partnership that builds relationships, fosters education, and increases collaboration between labor, environmental, and equity groups. Five unions endorsed climate legislation, and OEC has supported strong labor standards in policy and community benefit statements.

**TRIBAL**
Oregon tribes have been the stewards of this place we call home since time immemorial. OEC has met with and learned about the priorities of many of Oregon’s tribal communities. We assisted Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) in building Changing Currents, an initiative to foster deeper, collective dialogue about water protection and its cultural, spiritual, and societal importance to tribal communities. ATNI also served on the Renew Oregon steering committee and all nine of Oregon’s federally recognized tribes supported climate legislation.

**HEALTH**
OEC engaged trusted national organizations like the American Lung Association and community-level organizations like the Coalition of Local Health Officials in supporting legislation to curb diesel pollution. With our health partners, OEC helped advance legislation to protect tenants from contaminated well water.
Thanks to member support, OEC staff is able to fulfill our mission to bring Oregonians together to protect our water, air, and land for future generations.

Renew: OEC helped create Renew Oregon in 2015. Renew Oregon is the most powerful coalition ever assembled in our state to fight for climate protection.
Oregon Environmental Council believes that local action leads to global change. We are honored to represent Oregonians across the state as we work to create a healthier climate and future for everyone who calls this special place home. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, OEC has, for over 50 years, enjoyed the generous support of members to accomplish our critical work.

In the last 18 months, approximately 40% of OEC’s funding came from individuals who care deeply about our shared future. Members truly are the lifeblood of our work to create a healthier path for Oregon. We are honored to represent the people of Oregon and truly grateful to those individuals who believe in and support this critical work.

Unparalleled Community Support

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As I think about how essential our environment is to our health and well-being, especially in uncertain times, it’s critical that your work continue. Especially in a way that brings people together and bridges divides to focus on the things we hold in common. You’re all heroes to me. Count me in as an ally in the future, as we all weather this storm.”

— Allison Hensey, former staff member and OEC member

“My favorite memory of OEC is its determination. When disappointments arose, the organization didn’t back down and didn’t give up. It just went back to the drawing board to determine the best strategy for moving forward and renewed its efforts to foster change.”

— Mark Gibson, OEC Member

“I treasure Oregon deeply. This place is more than home to me; it is a part of me. That’s why I believe it’s so important to support Oregon Environmental Council. I feel very proud knowing that my gift will play a part in keeping Oregon’s air clean, its water plentiful, its economy strong, and my family healthy.”

— Rick Gustafson, former board member and OEC member
For more than 50 years, Oregon Environmental Council has advanced solutions to Oregon’s most pressing environmental challenges, forwarding impactful and lasting strategies to improve the health and well-being of every Oregonian and this place we call home.