



Oklahoma Conference of Churches

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African
Methodist
Episcopal

African
Methodist
Episcopal Zion

Christian
Church
(Disciples of
Christ)

Christian
Methodist
Episcopal

Cooperating
Baptist
Fellowship of
Oklahoma

Cumberland
Presbyterian

Episcopal

Evangelical
Lutheran
Church in
America

Mennonites

Presbyterian
Church USA

Progressive
Oklahoma
Baptist State
Convention

Reformed
Church
in America

Roman Catholic

Society of
Friends

United Church
of Christ

United
Methodist

March 31, 2011

Dear Representative:

I am writing you on behalf of the Oklahoma Conference of Churches (OCC) IMPACT Committee. Our main purpose is to review, and advocate regarding, pending legislation from a unified Christian perspective. God's will, as revealed in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, is our goal. The OCC has adopted theological statements covering the 5 different areas we currently monitor; these theological statements help guide our discernment.

My particular area on IMPACT is the Environment. A copy of our theological statement on that area is enclosed. In light of that statement and after responsible deliberation we are writing to ask your support for two bills.

The first is SB 591, which would create the Oklahoma Recycling Task Force to study, and recommend strategies to increase, recycling efforts. Our statement emphasizes that we are stewards of God's creation and that care for the earth is a moral and faith issue. It specifically states that fulfillment of our stewardship responsibilities should include supporting policies that "provide for appropriate recycling" of waste. We hope we can count on your support for this measure.

Secondly, to the extent SB 19 enhances the safety and stability of our solid waste landfills, which it appears to do with enhanced slope and grade requirements, we urge your support for it as well. Our statement supports policies that provide for "appropriate...disposal of municipal waste."

Thank you for your attention to these matters. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Grace and Peace,

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Unified to offer love, justice and hope to each other and God's world.