

Statement of Support Measure 49 by Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon

Oregon's farmlands, forests and natural areas are central to our state's livability, prosperity and uniqueness. **Measure 49 is a much-needed corrective to the flaws of Measure 37, so that Oregon's lands may continue to be a blessing to future generations.** *As people of faith, we believe that the land is a gift from God, entrusted to our care and stewardship for the benefit of the common good.*

The principles of many great faith traditions call us to love our neighbors as ourselves and to care for the Earth. Therefore, the actions of an individual landowner should not jeopardize the health and well-being of neighbors and communities. In Oregon, land use planning has evolved as a system to ensure fairness while protecting the values that bring us together.

If left unmodified, Measure 37 will cause scattered islands of incompatible uses in prime farm, forest and natural areas, making it difficult for many family farmers to stay in business, as well as threatening water supplies and wildlife habitats.

Measure 49 keeps the intent of Measure 37 by clarifying and streamlining the process for small-scale residential development, and closing the loopholes in Measure 37 that allow unchecked large-scale development. Without Measure 49, widespread development within exclusive farm, forest and natural areas will establish the conditions and precedent for more development, thereby further undermining our land use planning system.

The quality of life in Oregon has never been more in the balance. We urge a "YES" vote on Measure 49.