

# ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES *of* OREGON

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To the Editor:

An article on page two of Sunday's *Oregonian* outlined the actual and projected financial costs of last week's Greenpeace protest at the St. John's Bridge, while the front page featured a story on the Pacific Blob, the area of unusually warm water from Alaska to California that threatens the ecological balance and fishing economies, driven in part by a global temperature rise due to human activities.

It is valuable to know the costs for public safety and law enforcement when citizens exercise their right to free speech and peaceful protest. But these costs pale in significance to the costs of a warming climate.

The poor and the vulnerable are the first to pay the costs of climate change. As Pope Francis guides us, sometimes prophetic words and prophetic actions are needed to awaken us from our slumber and heed the moral call to take action on the climate.

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## MEMBER DENOMINATIONS

African Methodist Episcopal Church ■ American Baptist Churches of Oregon ■ Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) ■ Christian Methodist Episcopal Church ■ Church of the Brethren ■ Community of Christ  
Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon ■ Episcopal Diocese of Oregon ■ Evangelical Lutheran Church in America ■ Greek Orthodox Church ■ Presbyterian Church (USA)—Presbytery of the Cascades  
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) ■ Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Portland ■ United Church of Christ ■ United Methodist Church ■ Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches