

ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES *of* OREGON

Media Release

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EMO honors Senator Ron Wyden with “Vollum Ecumenical Humanitarian Award”

U.S. Senator Ron Wyden will be honored with the “Vollum Ecumenical Humanitarian Award” on May 7, 2015, at the *Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) Annual Community Awards & Celebration Dinner*. The award is presented in recognition of his leadership in enhancing the quality of life in Oregon.

Wyden has served Oregon in the U.S. Congress for more than 30 years. During that time, he has gone head-to-head with the E.P.A. to reduce cancer-causing benzene in gasoline sold in Oregon. Key elements of Wyden’s Kinship Care Act were included as part of major reforms improving the nation’s foster care system, which recognized and strengthened support for kinship care—the full-time care and protection of children by relatives. Wyden is ranking member of the Senate Finance Committee and the ranking Democrat on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. He serves on the Committees on Finance, Budget, Intelligence, and Energy and Natural Resources.

Wyden was instrumental in the release of the Senate torture report, “Committee Study of the CIA’s Detention and Interrogation Program,” which details the CIA’s use of so-called “enhanced interrogations.” Wyden pushed to launch the investigation in 2009, and played a critical role in ensuring the report came to light, despite a campaign to delay its release and obscure critical details. Along with others on the committee, Wyden succeeded in reversing a number of unnecessary redactions that did nothing to protect intelligence assets. The disturbing acts of torture described in the report clearly violate the ethical and moral values we hold as a nation and are antithetical to the fundamental values of our faith traditions.

The *EMO Annual Community Awards & Celebration Dinner* has become the premier ecumenical event in Oregon, bringing together diverse communities of faith and community partners in celebration of ecumenism and the spirit of hope across Oregon. This year, the event will be held on May 7 at the Hilton Hotel, 921 SW Sixth Ave., Portland. A reception and silent auction to benefit EMO’s ministries will be held from 5 to 6:30 p.m. and the dinner and award presentations will begin at 6:30 p.m. Reservations are available at www.emoregon.org for \$100 per person and tables for 10 are available for \$1,000. For more information, call Carla Starrett-Bigg at (503) 221-1054, ext. 275, or csbigg@emoregon.org.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is a statewide association of Christian denominations, congregations, ecumenical organizations and interfaith partners working together to improve the lives of Oregonians through community ministry programs, ecumenical and interreligious dialogue, environmental ministry and public policy advocacy.