



Oklahoma Conference of Churches

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The Very Rev. Justin Lindstrom
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Dear Citizens of Oklahoma:

The Oklahoma Conference of Churches affirms that we are stewards of God's creation—the soil, water, air, plants, and creatures. We have a moral obligation to protect the planet on which we live—to respect God's creation, to ensure a safe and hospitable environment for all human beings, and to seek to live in harmony with all creation. Accordingly we oppose State Question 777, which seeks a Constitutional amendment that would provide, in part:

... the rights of citizens and lawful residents of Oklahoma to engage in farming and ranching practices shall be forever guaranteed in this state. The Legislature shall pass no law which abridges the right of citizens and lawful residents of Oklahoma to employ agricultural technology and livestock production and ranching practices without a compelling state interest.

Oklahoma has a long and proud history of agriculture and no one legitimately argues with the right to farm and ranch in our state. Existing laws on the books protect that right (see, 50 OS sec. 1-1.1). However, the suggestion of a Constitutional amendment that might limit the legislature's future ability to rightly regulate agriculture practices for the protection of the people, animals, and environment seems less than wise and a potential danger. What is a "compelling state interest"? Should not the legislature rather than the courts determine this? We fear even reasonable regulation of agricultural practices enacted by the legislature might be deemed to "abridge" the right to "employ agricultural technology and livestock production and ranching practices" under this broad language.

OCC believes that the legislature, in its role as protector of the people and environment of this state, should support policies *"that develop and test safe alternatives to chemicals used for growing, processing, and preserving food"* and that *"serve to reduce and control the creation of harmful industrial, agricultural and municipal byproducts and waste..."* State Question 777 and the constitutional amendment it seeks to enact, would thwart the legislature's ability to do just that. We urge you to vote against State Question 777.

Respectfully,

William Tabbernee
Executive Director

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

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

