



February 21, 2023

Senate Committee on Education
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem Oregon 97301

Re: SB 414 - Support

Dear Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Weber, and Members of the Committee,

Climate Solutions is a regional non-profit working to accelerate clean energy solutions to the climate crisis. **We write today in support of SB 414.**

Measuring and improving the air quality at Oregon schools is important, particularly with the growing risk of wildfires around the state along with the pandemic and other viral threats. Installing CO₂ monitors and evaluating the status of the existing ventilation systems in all schools is an important step. We appreciate the leadership of SMART Local 16 and others for bringing forward this important bill.

We hope and expect there will be an energy efficiency component to the assessment as well. If schools are going to assess the ventilation performance of existing HVAC systems, it will be beneficial to assess at the same time the energy efficiency of the equipment and whether to upgrade systems to lower energy use and thereby, lower energy bills. As a member of the Resilient, Efficient Buildings (REBuilding) Task Force, the need to improve indoor air quality and energy use, particularly in schools, was consistently raised. With the millions of dollars that are available through the federal infrastructure bill for improving energy efficiency of buildings, now is a great time to take advantage of that opportunity.

Climate Solutions thanks the committee for seeking to improve the air quality in schools and supports SB 414. Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Meredith Connolly".

Meredith Connolly
Oregon State Director
Climate Solutions