

Submitter: Ralph Alig  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure: SB854

Dear Chair Dembrow and members of the Senate Education Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 854. I live in Corvallis, where our two sons went to school through high school.

I strongly support SB 854 - which seeks to significantly expand and integrate climate change instruction across all K-12 core subject areas (language arts, sciences, mathematics, social studies, health, physical education and the arts). Climate change is a very important topic, and is intertwined with sustainability. More evidence about the climate crisis accumulates each day, and future generations will be dealing with the effects for a long time. At the same time, it is important to assure that current generations are educated along those lines, especially our Oregon citizens in grade schools and high schools.

Senate Bill 854 can help such Oregon students learn more about climate change, with a focus on local impacts and connections. Climate change is affecting all sectors of our economy and society and it is important it be covered in other classes in addition to science classes.

Relatedly, it is important for Oregon students to learn about climate change in the context of the interdependence of people with nature. Opportunities for "green" technical education pathways are also important to provide to students.

I urge you to vote in favor of SB 854 - Comprehensive Climate Change Education in Oregon schools. Thank you for your support of SB 854! It is time for Oregon to take leadership in becoming the second state to legislate comprehensive climate education.

Sincerely,

Ralph Alig