

Submitter: Evelyn Buehler
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB854

Dear Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to express my opinion and experiences regarding the Senate Bill 854. My name is Evelyn Buehler, and my pronouns are she/her. I am in 9th grade at Sunset High School in the Beaverton School District (BSD), an avid rock climber, and a member of Sunset's Climate Change Club.

I feel extremely fortunate to have been able to attend one of BSD's option middle school programs, Rachel Carson Environmental Science Middle School (RC). RC is a small, remarkable program that is led by six hardworking teachers who enlighten their students about climate justice. This occurs through the teachers' genuine care for each student, and the opportunities for which they put in countless hours to create. For example, each week the school goes on a "site visit", where we do volunteer work, work with a non-profit organization, or visit a different place to help us better understand our community. Some specific site visits I went on were planting at the Oregon Food Bank garden, removing invasive species from a restoration site, and visiting the Bonneville Dam to learn how hydroelectricity works. These experiences helped me to expand my thinking about how the world around me works. I learned about hardships such as climate change, poverty, and racism that greatly affect the people I live nearby to.

However, coming into high school it is sad for me to see how much it is the opposite from my amazing middle school. At Sunset, most students do not think about their impact on the environment. For instance, many of my peers throw away half their lunch, despite food waste being the number one contributor to landfills by weight. Furthermore, when we had unusually hot weather in October, a student in one of my classes asked our teacher why. In my teacher's answer, they clearly avoided talking about climate change, although that was the reason.

Most definitely, climate change needs to be discussed and understood more in not only my school, but all schools. We are not doing Oregon students justice if we are not teaching them about the one of world's most crucial problem. Therefore, I greatly encourage you to please support Senate Bill 854 and think of how it will benefit every future young Oregonian.

Thank you for your time and interest!

Sincerely,
Evelyn Buehler, she/her
9th grade, Sunset High School
Climate Change Club member