

Submitter: james austin
On Behalf Of: Future
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. My name is James Austin. I reside in Eugene, Or. I am a retired Earth Scientist and Head Start Teacher.

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).

With the increase of uncontrollable Wild Fires, these fires which are a symptom of Climate change, have impacted my family in so many areas. Respiratory Health etc..

We don't want to leave an uninhabitable world to our Children and Grand children.

The benefits of inclusive climate education are far-reaching:

- Clean air and water.
- Sustainable agriculture and forestry.
- Climate change mitigation.
- Improved health and wellbeing.
- Gender equity.
- Reduced inequalities.
- Corporate social responsibility.
- Improved working conditions.
- Entrepreneurship and new jobs.

Businesses, governments, and communities can:

- Lessen their dependence on fossil fuels.
- Embrace sustainable energy solutions such as wind and solar.
- Protect rainforests through sustainable practices.
- Move to electric vehicles.
- Develop a smart grid.
- Be more conscious of how they use energy.
- Work with local non-governmental organizations.
- Protect those who are directly impacted by inequitable climate practices.
- Don't ignore the science of facts.

"Climate change impacts, adaptations and mitigation strategies will arguably be the greatest challenge facing Oregonians now and in the future. Oregon schools can help students with a localized curriculum to meet these challenges. SB 854 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). The multidisciplinary approach aims to help students make connections between the science of climate change and the ways in which it impacts all facets of life." I couldn't have said it better myself!

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.