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Agency: Redmond School District

Date: March 8, 2023

Committee: Senate Committee on Education

Measure: SB 854

We are submitting written testimony in opposition of SB 854, proposed legislation which requires school districts to develop a written plan establishing climate change instructional programs for kindergarten through grade 12.

If expectations to teach about climate change are going to be imposed, those expectations should be included in the State's Science Standards. They should not exist as a separate teaching requirement. Furthermore, the State's curriculum standards are already too full of standards such that many of them are not taught well and require supplemental lessons and curriculum (Holocaust, Tribal History, etc.). While these standards are important, they are increasingly difficult to fit in. In addition, many CTE courses are not focused on topics that are specifically related to industries that impact the climate. And, the ones that are may have few instructors with any knowledge about climate change in general and specific knowledge about how it affects their industry.

Our District has come to rely upon the Student Investment Account (SIA) funds for their intended purposes: (1) meeting students' mental or behavioral health needs and (2) improving academic outcomes and reducing academic disparities for students of color, students with disabilities, emerging bilingual students, and students navigating poverty, homelessness, and foster care and any other student groups that have historically experienced academic disparity as determined by the State Board of Education (SBE) by rule. The Student Success Act was not passed in order to teach a particular curriculum. Our District already feels the impact of escalating costs, needs and priorities upon our SIA funds. In preparing our Integrated Guidance plan for ODE, our budget for 2023-24 had to exclude over \$2 million in priorities which we are unable to fund with allocated revenue.