

Submitter: Milla Vogelezang-Liu
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB854

Dear Chair Janeen Sollman and members of the committee,

My name is Milla Vogelezang-Liu, I'm a junior, and I'm the co-president for the climate activism club at my school: South Eugene High School.

The first time I learned about climate change's existence was in 4th grade. We had to search up an article on the internet for the first time, and I found one about how there were only three white rhinos left in the world. I learned that species all around the world were disappearing, and that this was happening fast. I didn't know how this was happening or why, I just knew that something was wrong. In elementary school, we were told to respect the three rules: reduce, reuse, recycle. I knew that these rules were "saving the planet" but I didn't really know what that meant. We were never told why our planet needed saving, or what it needed saving from. The next time I heard about climate change in school was in 8th grade, when my robotics teacher (an elective class) showed us a Greta Thunberg video. This was the first time I learned about the climate movement, but I still didn't really understand what all of it really meant, or why it was important. Last year, my sophomore year, was the first time I properly learned about the science behind climate change in science class. Even so, it was only a two week unit and it only covered the basics of the carbon cycle and the greenhouse effect.

Climate change is the crisis of our generation, and it's going to affect us all. It's already started to affect us. The purpose of education is to prepare us for the real world. Climate change is the real world, it's the new normal, and we need to be prepared for it. How are we supposed to deal with this crisis if we don't even know what we're up against? If we don't know how it affects us? If we don't know what we can do? As legislators, as educators, as parents, the first thing you can do to help us, is give us the tools we need to survive. Teach us what is going on. Show us all the ways we can help.

Climate work isn't one dimensional. It isn't just science. Climate change affects all sectors of our society. It affects the economy, it affects law. There is plenty of science behind it, but there's math too. Climate change has a place in history when we think of the industrial revolution or even Native practices worldwide. Jobs surrounding climate change are becoming more and more prominent, and learning about it in school can help us prepare for them.

Our world is changing, so our education needs to change with it. Thank you for

considering my testimony for my future, and the future of all future generations.