

Submitter: Stephanie Leben
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB854

March 9, 2023

To: Oregon House and Senate Education Committees
From: Stephanie Leben
RE: SB 854, climate education bill

I am writing to express my support of SB 854. Oregon students deserve the best education possible, and they are living with the effects of climate change in their lives. By providing teachers with clear climate teaching standards and the tools in which to teach climate education, we as a state will be better serving our students.

As an educator for over 20 years, I have seen the increase in anxiety and despair students feel towards our changing planet. They do not have the tools to express these feelings, and one of their great frustrations is that they must take the mantle of change on themselves- spearheading programs, sustainability clubs, and awareness campaigns often without adult direction. By creating teaching standards across K-12 education it would ease some of that burden from the backs of children and place it on the adults. We would be the stewards of fostering awareness, love for the planet, and change, and quite possibly easing some of the stress and anxiety that plagues our students. Please pass this legislation.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Leben
Lake Oswego High School