

Submitter: Melissa Miranda
On Behalf Of: Our 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 Melissa, I'm a sophomore at Early College High School and an Our Future Regional Leader. 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).

In my 9th grade science class, we had a brief climate change unit where we touched on the basis of climate change. From learning about first-hand climate change experiences to the scientific aspect of it. It was a two week unit and after the unit, I wanted to learn more. After class, I asked my science teacher about ways I could be a part of the climate justice movement and she directed me to various events and organizations. I attended events throughout the summer and I got the privilege to learn about climate change from Native American perspectives. It was the best experience. I compared my newfound climate knowledge to the one I received during the 9th grade science unit and was disappointed at the fact that the unit was brief and didn't cover all the aspects of climate change. On behalf of Oregon students, we want to take action and deepen our understanding on climate change. We simply need the tools and education to do so.

It is critical that Oregon students learn about climate change so they develop green skills. We must accept the fact that climate change is going to shape our future, wellbeing, and quality of life. Therefore, learning about it will ease climate change doubts and anxiety. 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.

Sincerely,

Melissa.