

Submitter: Lyra Johnson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB854

Thank you Chair Dembrow and members of the Senate Education Committee. My name is Lyra Johnson, and I am a junior at Lake Oswego High School. I strongly support SB 854, which aims to integrate climate change instruction across all K-12 core subject areas.

Last semester, I took a new Sustainability class established at my school, which had a project-based curriculum where students worked to incorporate sustainability into our school system. My group focused on food waste and composting, and we realized, through food audits, student surveys, and conversations with administration, that one of the main obstacles to achieving a sustainable system was a lack of motivation. While administration supported our attempts at making change, they didn't have the time or the resources to give us the help we needed. Students in Sustainability class spent a semester fighting an uphill battle against a general lack of attention and care for the issues we were studying.

To be honest, I find that terrifying. Indifference, as I've learned, is one of the most difficult obstacles to overcome, and I believe we can only fight it by finding a way to change our collective mindset. I can't promise that SB 854 will magically fix our societal inertia, but I can promise that it will be a crucial step in the right direction, giving students the nuanced climate change knowledge they need.

I urge you to support the bill. I urge you to show all the kids like me that you care. Thank you so much for your time and consideration.