

Submitter: Jane Stackhouse  
On Behalf Of: my grandchildren  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure: SB854

Members of the Senate Committee on Education.

I fully support climate curricula in Oregon's schools. Fifty-six years ago I learned how plants use carbon dioxide to grow and emit oxygen which keeps our atmosphere in balance. At that time scientists suspected we were overloading our atmosphere with more carbon than plants could process. But the total parts per million of carbon gas (CO<sub>2</sub>) was still well below limits of concern. I first heard the term 'climate change' on a British comedy show where an off hand comment was made about young people being concerned about something called climate change. It was, of course, equated with weather as many who do not understand the process still do. About twelve years ago I recall hearing about CO<sub>2</sub> PPM passing the 'safe' level of 350. I also saw 'The Inconvenient Truth' and finally understood how critical the climate issue is. Twelve years ago we did not see much direct evidence of climate change in the Pacific Northwest. That has changed and now only the most ardent deniers can say it is not of concern.

In 2016 I completed training with Al Gore and the Climate Reality Project. I have been an active climate action volunteer since 2014 and have the opportunity to work with several knowledgeable scientists, including John Perona who wrote the book, From Knowledge to Power: The Comprehensive Handbook for Climate Science and Advocacy, that you all received from the Metro Climate Action Team (MCAT) at the start of the session. Educators I met through the Climate Realty Project Leadership Team here in Portland have completed comprehensive climate curricula materials for schools. There is no shortage of information so this will not be a burden on teachers and, as we often say, knowlege is power. Our children and grandchildren need the knowledge to help them deal with climate impacts and implement solutions.

I am pleased by the number of young people who are getting involved in climate action. I believe there are many many excellent job opportunities coming their way that will help decrease carbon emissions, sequester and store carbon, and help mitigate the impact of climate change. They must be prepared. In the meantime, we older people have to do everything we can to clean up this mess before we go. The challenging lesson will be that even after we significantly reduce our carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions the effects of climate change will not just switch off. It will take hundrends of years, if ever, to return to the climate your and I grew up with. We must prepare young people with the scienfic knowledge and social and political understanding so they will have the fortitude to continue to improve how people interact with our planet and with others for a better future.

Please pass SB 854 out of committee with a 'do pass' recommendation.