

Submitter: Brian Lee  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Education  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3365

I support the integration of climate education into the curricula of our schools and ask you to favor HB 3365 Comprehensive Climate Change Education in Oregon.

It is critical for students to understand that climate change is a significantly contributory factor in the many issues that are faced today and will become more prominent in their future. Such issues include agricultural productivity, shelter, local economy, forestry, species biodiversity, natural disasters, disease spread, even conflicts that lead to war.

Climate change education helps drive future innovation and implementation of practices and technologies that can mitigate avoidable sources of climate change and those that will help us adapt to the adverse effects that are unavoidable.

Climate change is a subject of growing interest among today's students and educators. Undoubtedly, you have heard of school green teams and clubs engaged in community projects such as raising food, cleaning shorelines, and planting pollinator gardens. Climate education supports these activities and can create aspirations to become the farmers, environmental engineers, and land and wildlife managers that will be needed in the future generation.

Climate education is needed to inoculate our students against misinformation they will eventually encounter. As a board-certified toxicologist whose career has spanned cancer research, regulatory government protecting consumers, large technology corporations with consumer goods, and independent consulting with consumer items, across 39 years, I have found good scientific grounding provides knowledge and discernment for what is valid.

The State Board of Education could include these recommendations its upcoming plans or improving academic performance of Oregon schools. Although some educators are concerned about another brick added to the weight of teaching to be provided, I would expect the Board of Education to recommend integrating climate change education into existing curricula rather than necessarily adding on another module.

I appreciate your support of HB 3365.

Brian C. Lee, PhD DABT