

## **HB 3365 - Formal Letter of Support**

Dear Chair Neron and members of the House Education Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 3365. My name is Dennis Nolasco and I am an Education Coordinator at EARTHDAY.ORG.

I strongly support HB 3365 - which seeks to 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).

As an English Language Arts educator for several years, I integrated climate education into my own classroom. My students always mentioned how valuable they considered my unit on climate change. I took this passion for climate change education with me when I began working at EARTHDAY.ORG. Students across the world are experiencing anxiety due to climate change. Students feel as though they are not prepared for the ever growing economy. Students also do not have sustainable habits ingrained in their everyday routines. Comprehensive and interdisciplinary climate education would remedy all these issues. By incorporating these standards into the curriculum, we are giving students the tools needed to ensure a brighter tomorrow both in Oregon and across the world.

Embedding climate education across disciplines—beyond just science classes—reinforces the interconnectedness of climate solutions. Understanding the economics of sustainability, the historical impacts of environmental policies, and the role of literature and media in shaping environmental awareness helps students see themselves as active participants in building a more resilient future. Teaching these concepts as early as elementary school is crucial, as it allows students to develop sustainable habits and a sense of environmental stewardship from a young age.

Legislators have a profound responsibility to protect the well-being of Oregon's students and the long-term prosperity of the state. Passing HB 3365 aligns with that duty by ensuring that young Oregonians are equipped with the tools necessary to thrive in a changing world. Supporting this bill is not just an investment in education—it is an investment in Oregon's future. It is an opportunity to leave a legacy of leadership, foresight, and commitment to the people of this state.

This year is the 55th anniversary of the very first Earth Day in 1970. What a better way to honor that day than by establishing Oregon as a leader in climate education. I urge you to vote in favor of HB 3365- Comprehensive Climate Change Education in Oregon schools.

Thank you for your support of HB 3365! It is time for Oregon to take leadership in becoming the second state to legislate comprehensive climate education.

Sincerely,

Dennis Nolasco  
Education Coordinator

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