

Dear Chair Neron and members of the House Education Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 3365. My name is Laura Craig, am a resident of Corvallis and work on climate action issues in my community. I am a retired hydrogeologist with experience working at the grade school level and strongly support environmental science education.

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). I particularly support the cross-disciplinary aspects of this proposed bill, as it will increase exposure to students and will help them see how climate issues impact just about every aspect of our lives.

As a hydrogeologist working in rural Ghana, I saw firsthand the impact that our changing climate has had on vulnerable communities, such as unreliable rainfall in a farming region that depends entirely on rain to water the crops. In addition, I have a family member who lost their house to a major California fire in 2017. These are just two examples of how climate change is impacting us. If not addressed immediately, these climate-related challenges will only worsen.

It is critical for students to learn about climate change, climate resilience, and climate solutions to be better prepared for an ever-changing world. Combining both education and solutions will aid in decreasing anxiety while also addressing an existential issue. Developing a better understanding of our interdependence with nature is an essential educational focus, as are understanding the impacts of climate change on our local communities. A cross disciplinary climate focused component of K-12 education is an ideal way to help students grasp the impact of climate change

Please 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,

Laura Craig

Corvallis, OR