

Dear Chair Neron, Vice-Chairs Dobson and McIntire, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of **The Climate Reality Project, Portland Chapter,** I am writing to express support for <u>House Bill 3365</u> which seeks to amend <u>ORS 329.045</u>, an Oregon public law on Common Curriculum Goals, by expanding and integrating climate resilience instruction across all K-12 core subject areas (language arts, sciences, mathematics, social studies, health, physical education, and the arts). This multidisciplinary approach helps students to make connections between the science of climate change and the ways in which climate change impacts all facets of life, and helps them to look towards community-based solutions. HB 3365 articulates pathways for integrating climate literacy into academic content standards that are already reviewed and revised regularly by the State Board of Education and the Oregon Department of Education, with place-based, age-appropriate, solution-oriented guidelines developed both within Oregon, and nationally.

The Climate Reality Project, Portland Chapter, partners with various organizations to help students learn about climate solutions and jobs. Al Gore, the founder of The Climate Reality Project, has said to youth: "You will live with the consequences of the decisions made today for far longer than my generation will." (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ye\_0G87w7yg) The Climate Reality Project, Portland Chapter, believes that it is therefore our responsibility to do all in our power to provide our youth with every tool they will need to help mitigate and adapt to the climate crisis. This begins with accurate and wholistic climate education, and a clear understanding of how climate change is impacting every aspect of our lives. And that, in turn, will point the way to opportunities for students to get involved in local and community projects, as well as to a broad array of climate related career opportunities.

HB 3365 is an investment in Oregon's future. **The Climate Reality Project, Portland Chapter,** strongly supports HB 3365, which aligns with <u>NOAA's Climate Literacy Guide</u> to provide Oregon's youth with innovative, solution-focused learning. It prepares students not only to understand climate science, but also to engage in civic and economic solutions that will maintain our state's industries and ecosystems in a sustainable way for generations to come. We urge you to support this bill and uphold Oregon's commitment to education, resilience, and responsible stewardship.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to Oregon's future. We appreciate your consideration and look forward to seeing HB 3365 advance through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

Lynn Merrick, Climate Education Co-Lead The Climate Reality Project, Portland Chapter

## About The Climate Reality Project Portland Chapter

The Climate Reality Project (CRP) Portland Chapter is a local, volunteer-led chapter of The Climate Reality Project, an international nonprofit of 5 million members led by climate leader and former US Vice President Al Gore, whose mission is to catalyze global solutions to the climate crisis. Our legislative committee bases its advocacy on CRP's 5 pillars: a just transition to clean energy, zero carbon transportation, climate justice and public health, green communities, and a fair, representative democracy. climaterealitypdx.com/, www.climaterealityproject.org