

Dear Chair Neron and members of the House Education Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 3365.,

My name is Lottie Rohde, I am speaking to you now for the second time. When we last spoke I was a senior in high school in Eugene where I was a part of four different climate organizations in addition to working full time to support myself and family. When I realized I had a voice I leaped at the opportunities to use it. Ultimately this led to burn out because I wasn't being taught in my classes how to not feel overwhelmed in the face of our world falling apart. Now I am twenty years old. I have worked on multiple manual trail-building crews around the Northwest, where I saw the impacts of climate change first hand everyday; something I was told about for so long. Today, I am back with Our Future, a collective of students across Oregon working on climate education, but this time as a staff member.

Growing up, I moved around a lot and lived in many different environments where I saw the aggressive effects of climate change. Having a conservative extended family, talking about climate change was considered "too political" and "something we shouldn't be worrying about." Due to this shame, I did not know what climate change was until my 6th-grade science class. After learning this, I felt inspired to learn as much as possible. This is uncommon for those who grew up in similar spaces as me. It is difficult to take the leap to learn more about something important on your own, especially when surrounded by people you love who don't think the same as you. This is a huge reason why I am here today and why we *need* more comprehensive climate education in schools K-12 in Oregon. Climate education needs to be accessible to those who don't have families that talk about or believe in climate change. This issue is one that everyone needs to be made aware of, and not just the "textbook" definition, but also what *we* can do as a community to combat it. HB-3365's Climate Education Bill will be integrated in an age-appropriate manner in all subject areas. As someone who worked in childcare for eight years, children notice the changes around them and want to know what they are. Students will not only learn the science behind climate change, but also the anthropological aspects, and how underrepresented communities are disproportionately affected, along with the history of what Indigenous people have done for thousands of years to help the ecosystems across Oregon.

Thank you all again for considering my testimony for not only my future but the future of my children and grandchildren.