

Submitter: Shilo Boutwell
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3365

Dear Chair Neron and members of the House Education Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 3365. My name is Shilo Boutwell, I am a concerned parent of a 10 year old in the Phoenix/Talent school district in Oregon

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 live in Southern Oregon, I've lived here for over 30 years. The climate here has always had hot/dry Summers with occasional forest fires that would cause smoke in the valley for a few days here & there. This has changed dramatically in the last 5-10 years. We are experiencing hotter, dryer weather than ever before, with summer frequently socked in, toxic smoke for weeks on end. We experienced one of the worst fires in history in 2020 that devastated 2 cities and resulted in over 2400 residential structures burned. As well as a year , almost 2, without our ski area able to operate, due to lack of snow fall. Lakes and rivers lower than I've ever seen them. Certain varieties of evergreens unable to grow in our hotter climate, dying and becoming tinder which feeds the fires.

I feel it's incredibly important that our future generations get climate change education that prepares them for their futures. They will need this preparedness to guide them into jobs, businesses, & lifestyles that promote climate conscious practices.

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,
Shilo Boutwell