March 12, 2025

Dear House Committee on Education Members,

On behalf of Eugene Springfield Interfaith EarthKeepers, I am writing to express support for House Bill 3365 which seeks to amend ORS 329.045, an Oregon public law on Common Curriculum Goals, by expanding and integrating climate resilience instruction across all K-12 core subject areas. This multidisciplinary approach helps students make connections between the science of climate change and the ways in which it impacts all facets of life to foster 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 within Oregon and nationally.

As people from various faith traditions, we care deeply about Creation, and we share a love for our neighbors, local and global. We understand that climate change is already disproportionately impacting the most vulnerable in society, the poor, marginalized communities, and the youngest and oldest among us. We also recognize the mental health challenges that young people are increasingly experiencing around the climate and other environmental crises. Therefore, we agree that it is critical that our youngest citizens be equipped to engage in climate solutions that will sustain Oregon's economy and ecosystems while supporting community resilience.

HB 3365 is an investment in Oregon's future. Eugene Springfield Interfaith EarthKeepers strongly supports HB 3365, which aligns with <u>NOAA's Climate Literacy Guide</u> to provide Oregon's youth with innovative, solution-focused learning. 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,

Britni Cacan Eugene Springfield Interfaith EarthKeepers