

March 12, 2025

Dear House Committee on Education Members,

I am a former elementary school teacher, environmental educator, student teacher supervisor, and school garden coordinator. I strongly support HB 3365, which seeks to expand and integrate climate change instruction across all K-12 core subject areas.

The science is clear that climate change impacts are increasing and will continue to escalate for the foreseeable future, and sadly, the youngest generations will bear the worst cost of this crisis. Therefore, our education system bears the responsibility to help students understand the science of climate change and provide the tools they will need to create resilient communities.

While I know firsthand that teachers have a lot on their plate in regards to teaching standards and meeting student needs, nothing is more important than preparing our youth to adapt to climate change impacts while learning to live much more sustainable lifestyles than previous generations. Their physical and mental wellbeing will depend on how well they are able to work together to solve problems, develop regenerative local economies, and understand the interdependence of all life on this planet. If we truly care about our kids, this should be our number one priority.

As an educator, I would be excited to create place-based, integrative learning experiences for students that foster resilience, citizenship, and environmental literacy. By supporting House Bill 3365, you have the opportunity to help make this much needed change in education a reality.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to seeing HB 3365 advance through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

Britni Cacan