

Submitter: Christina Kroker

TO: House Education Committee

**RE: Support of HB 3365 Climate Education in K-12 Schools in Oregon**

DATE: March 14, 2025

Dear Chair Neron and members of the House Education Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 3365. I am Christina Kroker, a 21 year old college student attending Willamette University studying Environmental Science and Studio Art. Having grown up in Southern California before coming to Oregon, I've seen floods that shut down schools, wildfires that caused me to evacuate my home, and droughts that increase water prices. Like many who attend out-of-state higher education facilities, I plan to live near where I currently reside for academic purposes. I need to do everything possible to ensure my future, and the future of other current and future Oregonians are safe, healthy, and sustainable. Climate change has been, and is continuously becoming, a large threat to our safety and health here in Oregon. Despite this, I and many of my Oregon friends have not learned about climate change in school prior to college. We learned about climate change through our relatives with biased views of the world, through the internet which is rife with misinformation, and through personal experiences with natural disasters. We cannot let our K-12 schools ignore climate change. Our children deserve explanations for what is happening around them.

Climate change is not a new issue, it's been happening slowly over generations. The Earth's climate is tied to our history, and humans have impacted it drastically in return. This topic isn't restricted to science, so it shouldn't be restricted to science classrooms. Students should be educated about what impacts their lifestyles could have on the planet so they can make more informed decisions. Looking at the internet is not enough. Growing up on the internet, I felt discouraged and hopeless when constantly seeing what horrible things are happening as a result of our actions. My parents didn't always have answers either, and not all parents have the bandwidth to do research into the topic themselves. Fear is not productive, but education is. Let's fuel a conversation, a generation, and culture to do better and create a more sustainable future for Oregon.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to 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). It is time for Oregon to take leadership in becoming the second state to legislate comprehensive climate education.

Thank you,  
Christina Kroker

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