

Submitter: Dominique Bachelet
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee
On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5525

Senator Janeen Sollman and Representative Ricki Ruiz
Co-chairs, Higher Education Coordinating Commission

Dear Senator Sollman, Representative Ruiz, and committee members,
As you know the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute (OCCRI) and Oregon Climate Service (OCS; the office of the state climatologist of Oregon) are hosted by Oregon State University (OSU). The state's allocation to the operating funds is included within the allocation to all statewide programs hosted by the university and is routed through the Oregon legislature's Higher Education Coordinating Committee. My name is Dominique Bachelet and, as a semi-retired climate change scientist and OSU associate professor, senior research, I have been teaching and working part-time for OCCRI, helping with the Future Climate Projections for the Oregon Counties and authoring a couple of chapters for the Oregon Climate Assessment. I was involved in developing county level infographics to easily share important information about climate effects on local resources with local communities, hoping to inspire K-12 students to discuss these handouts with their parents and their friends. The majority of the American public is aware that climate change is affecting the frequency and intensity of extreme events, increasing the variability of seasonal weather, and endangering lives and agricultural production. Many students I teach have been fearing this future and this fear of the unknown is dangerous for the well being of communities. OCCRI's role in developing Climate Assessments is to provide reliable information to allay fears and to help develop adequate adaptation strategies. As Marie Curie put it so well "Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less." The work of OCCRI and OCS illuminates the interconnections between climate, weather, and societal impacts so we are better prepared for what comes next. Dr. Fleishman, the director of OCCRI, has sought experts from both sides of the Cascades to contribute to the State and County Climate Assessments. She teaches students on the OSU campus how to communicate science findings effectively, essentially forming the leaders of tomorrow, able to share their discoveries with media, policy makers and farmers alike. She has been encouraging her team to reach out to K-12 educators and various community groups to provide state of the art climate information. She of course leads students and colleagues by example. Needless to say, the State Climatologist renders a public service that is critical for Oregon's agriculture and fisheries as well as essential to prevent losses of life when extreme weather events are predicted. His contribution to the Oregon Climate Assessment is essential to explain climate variability and what might be causing

different extreme events in the diverse regions of the state.

As a researcher and instructor, my role is to share my knowledge and that of my colleagues with students to give them incentives to become positive actors as active members of society. My job is facilitated by the accomplishments of OCCRI and OCS hosted at OSU. It is essential that younger generations be educated with the best scientific knowledge to ensure vibrant, productive and resilient Oregon communities. Because OCCRI's role is so important for the welfare of the state and as a provider of important services to the communities that need them, I hope you will wholeheartedly support this essential work by voting yes on SB 5525.