

**Dear Chair Fredrick and members of the Senate Education Committee,**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 3365. My name is Dr. Casey Boothby, and I serve as the High School Programs Manager for the Greater Oregon STEM Hub, based in Eastern Oregon. I have spent over 17 years working in public education as a teacher, administrator, instructional coach, and regional leader supporting STEM initiatives across rural school districts. As both an educator and a community advocate, I am deeply invested in ensuring that all Oregon students are equipped to meet the challenges of their future — climate change being among the most urgent.

**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).

Growing up and working in Eastern Oregon, I've witnessed firsthand how climate change is impacting our communities — from increasingly severe wildfire seasons and drought conditions to snowpack decline affecting water access and agriculture. These aren't distant or abstract problems; they are immediate and local. As an educator, I've seen the disconnect between the real-world urgency of the climate crisis and the limited exposure students have to it within the classroom — particularly in communities with fewer resources. Too often, climate education is siloed into isolated units in science classes rather than embedded in a cross-disciplinary, real-world approach that prepares students to understand and address the challenges ahead.

This bill matters because it will give Oregon students the knowledge, skills, and agency to engage with climate change *critically, creatively, and constructively*. By making climate literacy a part of every subject area, we're preparing students not just for academic success, but for *civic and career readiness*. In particular, integrating climate learning into career and technical education (CTE) pathways opens the door for green jobs, local innovation, and economic opportunity — especially vital in rural areas like the one I serve.

As lawmakers, you have the responsibility and the opportunity to prepare Oregon's next generation for a future that will be defined in large part by climate decisions. Supporting HB 3365 is the right action for this moment. It demonstrates your commitment to public education, community resilience, and a sustainable future for all Oregonians.

**I urge you to vote in favor of HB 3365 – Comprehensive Climate Change Education in Oregon schools.** 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,**

Dr. Casey Boothby

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Eastern Oregon University

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