

May 6, 2025

As someone who dedicated 31 years to teaching in Oregon classrooms and now serves as an elected school board member for Eugene School District 4J, I have witnessed firsthand the evolving needs of our students and the challenges our educators face. My experience has shown me that while teachers are often asked to take on new mandates, what we truly need are resources and support that empower us to prepare students for the realities they will inherit.

House Bill 3365, The Climate Education bill, is not just another mandate for teachers. Instead, it is a vital step toward equipping our students with the knowledge and tools they need to understand and address the urgent issue of climate change. In light of the federal government's recent retreat from climate action, it is more important than ever that Oregon leads by example, ensuring our students learn the unvarnished truth about climate science and solutions. This education is essential for fostering informed, responsible citizens who can participate in and shape our state's future.

We do not have the luxury of delay. The consequences of ignoring climate change are already impacting our communities, from wildfires to droughts. Passing HB 3365 is an investment in our students and in Oregon's resilience. I urge you to support this bill and give our young people the education they need to face the challenges ahead with knowledge, confidence, and hope.

Tom Di Liberto