

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Education
re: HB 3365 A**

May 7, 2025

**Crystal Weston, Environmental Health Program Director
Oregon Environmental Council**

Founded in 1968, the Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership-based organization. We advance innovative, collaborative and equitable solutions to Oregon's environmental challenges for today and future generations.

Re: Oregon Environmental Council support for HB 3365 A

Dear Chair Frederick, Vice-Chair Weber, and members of the Senate Committee on Education,

On behalf of the Oregon Environmental Council (OEC), a non-partisan, environmental nonprofit that works at the nexus of human health and the environment, I write to express OEC's support for HB 3365 A.

The purpose of public education is to prepare young Oregonians to fully participate in society. Quality public education promotes:

- The ability to think critically and weigh evidence;
- The ability to thrive within our diverse and dynamic society and build strong communities;
- Cultivation of civic engagement and empathy for others; and
- Preparation for future workforce participation.

HB 3365 A ensures students have a grasp of the science, challenges, and mitigation possibilities of climate change. Leaving students unequipped to understand their changing world reduces their ability to navigate that world.

For this reason, and on behalf of thousands of members, OEC supports public education that includes the ecological, societal and cultural aspects of climate change in order to better prepare young people for the environment that they will both inherit and shape.

Sincerely,

Crystal Weston
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