

April 14, 2015, Written Testimony in Support of HB 3470 by Zealand Bell (age 11) and Tayo Olson (age 11), residents of Eugene, Oregon.

We left school early today to come to Salem from Eugene to speak to you about our concerns for climate change and global warming. We are speaking on behalf of our friends and all youth, and even future generations.

We want to protect our forests, our rivers, our oceans and beaches, our air, the wildlife, and all of the water of our state.

Our forests create oxygen for us and they take away the carbon dioxide. But as it gets warmer, our forests become more prone to fire and disease.

The warmer temperatures and longer pollen seasons also make our allergies worse and affect our health. We both suffer from allergies and there will be even more days of really high pollen counts as our climate changes.

My family likes to go to the beach, and my dad likes to surf. We like to play on the sand and build structures with the driftwood that has washed onto the beach. We want to protect Oregon's beaches from sea level rise.

We also want to protect the food we like to eat. We like wild salmon and I like to eat crab. These food sources are also threatened by climate change and ocean acidification.

We like snow because we like skiing and building snowforts. This winter my family did not get to ski or play in the snow very much because our local ski area, Willamette Pass, was mostly closed. I think it was only open a couple of days because there was hardly any snow. Zealand's mom usually works at the ski area in the winter, but didn't have that job this year because of the lack of snow.

We also need snow for our water sources. We heard in school that California only has one year of water left and we are being affected here in the Willamette Valley too. Here in Oregon, we only have about 1/3 of our normal water supply because our climate is heating up and there's less precipitation in the form of snow.

We want to protect our rivers so they are clean and flowing for swimming and boating. We need our rivers for drinking water and growing food.

Last year, we testified in Eugene at City Council many times and in the summer of 2014 we convinced the council to pass a Climate Recovery Ordinance, which says that our city has to limit emissions based on the science of lowering CO2 levels to 350 ppm and also reduce fossil fuel use by 50% by 2030.

We want this work to go from our small city to our state, to our country and spread across the world.

If we were legislators, we would vote for this to be a law.

We want you to take action on House Bill 3470 during this session and pass it because we want to have a good future and a safe future. Thank you.