

I once read online that climate change isn't a big deal because the overall death rate that is contributed by natural disasters has decreased in the last 100 years. While I am uncertain if this statistic is true, I am certain that this is the completely wrong mentality we should use when discussing climate change. Climate change can also be measured by its displacement of life. This quantification is further exemplified when we take into consideration how much of an impact that wildfires played in destroying the homes and livelihoods of American citizens this past summer in my state and in California.

In order to combat climate change, we can no longer continue to blindly rely primarily on fossil fuels. Which is why we should increase investing in renewable energy. Thus decreasing our carbon footprint. This is how we can take action against stopping climate change while creating a west coast coalition of states that are committed to the same goal along with Washington and California.

Climate change is real and it is having a noticeable effect right in front of our eyes. Oregon can no longer idly stand by without producing some type of action. We can mitigate the magnitude of future natural disasters like these by committing to 100% renewable energy in the HB 2021 bill. If we take this action, then we are no longer the type of people who simply want to watch the world burn.