



# SIERRA CLUB

## OREGON CHAPTER

March 5, 2023

Senate Committee on Education

Re: Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 854, Comprehensive Climate Change Education in Oregon Schools

Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Weber, and members of the Senate Education Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in strong support of SB 854 on behalf of the more than 74,000 members and supporters of the Oregon Chapter Sierra Club.

We strongly support SB 854 as we recognize the significant importance of teaching future generations about climate change. Understanding how climate change currently affects us and will continue to affect us in the future.

Integrating the topic of climate change into all core subject areas will provide K-12 students an opportunity to examine the issues from a variety of perspectives. For example, social studies might explore how other countries and regions respond to rising sea levels along their coasts. Health classes could examine the effects of smoke from forest fires on local and world health. The arts can be used to express one's concerns about the future and as a call to action. Understanding the laws of science is paramount to understanding the causes and effects of climate change and how to take mitigative actions.

Additionally, a focus on careers in "green" technology can inspire and encourage students with knowledge that they can make a difference not only here in Oregon but anywhere! Knowledge brings power and in this case knowledge helps to alleviate some of the stress surrounding the future of youth when they realize that they do have power to make real and significant changes through their actions and their personal choices.

Climate change is happening and it is happening now. Join us in giving Oregon children the tools and resources to accomplish the challenges of today and tomorrow.

We urge you to vote in favor of SB 854 - Comprehensive Climate Change Education in Oregon Schools.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Dix  
Chair, Legislative Committee  
Oregon Chapter Sierra Club

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