

Submitter: Clare ODell  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure: SB854

Dear Legislators,

My name is Clare O'Dell, I use she/her pronouns, and I am a Junior at Rex Putnam High School. I am a Regional Leader with OurFuture, I am a member of my school's Earth Club, as well as a member of my school's SURJ(Showing up for Racial Justice) Club.

In the 1950s, my grandfather built a cabin with his father near Detroit. That cabin has been a safe haven for me in times of great difficulty in my personal life. It is a place for me and my family to connect with each other, and for us to connect with nature. It feels like every summer for the past three years, my favorite place in the whole world has been threatened by wildfires caused by reduced moisture and different rainfall patterns. The Cabin, and the area surrounding it, are a vital part of my family's history. I don't want that to be lost for future generations in my family.

The issue of climate change is time sensitive. We only have so long until the damage done to the earth is totally irreversible. We need to change the way people talk about climate change and to do so, we need to educate our children on it. SB 854 does not require teachers to make entirely new curriculums, they will only have to connect topics they already teach to the climate.

Climate change does not only affect the scientific world. It does have huge impacts on the environment and the ocean, but that severely harms numerous communities around the world. We deserve to learn the history of climate change, and how it has influenced the lives of people, near and far. Learning about the real people whose livelihoods, homes, and lives have been jeopardized by climate change is integral to how we approach solving it.

Oregon could be seen as an example of how to navigate climate change in a positive way. Wouldn't it be nice to look back decades into the future, and see that we did our part in fighting for our climate? If you support this bill, you are supporting generations of Oregonians, and citizens of the world far into the future.

Best wishes,  
Clare O'Dell  
OurFuture Regional Leader  
Senate District 41  
House District 5