

Hello respected Committee members and the Oregon community. Thank you for giving me this splendid opportunity to give testimony on Senate Bill 854. My name is Siddhi Nirgude and my pronouns are she/her. I am a junior at Westview High School. I currently serve as Vice President of Write to the Future—a children literature club—and I am the Bulletin Editor of Key Club—a volunteer organization. Additionally, I am a fencer at Northwest Fencing Center. Also, I am a girl scout and I am working towards my gold award which will center around the problem of littering.

I remember when I was but a young child excited to go to a brand new school. But when I got there I was horrified to hear that I couldn't go outside. But, why might you ask? Why should a young child be forced to suffer in such a limiting world? A world where we are unable to step outside. Enjoy the fresh crisp air. But the air doesn't exist. Instead replaced by the thick, hazy ash floating in the sky making it hard to breathe making it unsafe to be outside. Why was the air unclean might you ask? Because of wildfires.

I strongly believe that climate change is important. In schools we are not really taught the impact that our actions have on the entire world. I believe that climate change is important to learn. I believe that learning is important. And with this bill we will be able to learn the impacts and causes. Knowing this will inspire more kids like me to advocate climate change. This will help the world become a better place.

As legislators it is your job to protect us. Right now protecting the citizens of Oregon means passing this bill.

Kind Regards,
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