

Hello Committee members and thank you for the opportunity to give a testimony on Senate Bill 854. My name is Jacob Reyes Beeghly, I'm a senior at Westview High School. I am a musician and a member of several ensembles with leadership positions, namely the wind ensemble, jazz band, and the saxophone ensemble.

I would like to share my climate story with you today. During the summer of 2020, my family was in the process of moving out of Oregon to another state. While driving through California to our new home I glimpsed a wildfire for the first time. It was obscured by some hill and was some way in the distance, so I only had a few seconds to look at it, but I still remember it vividly. It was hypnotic and horrible. The intravenous drips of information from the news and the out-of-context photos don't do wildfires and the destruction they can cause justice. Had I not seen one with my own eyes, I would still think of them as far-off dangers that happened on rare occasions.

I think it's important to talk about Senate Bill 854 for that exact reason. Most students do not understand the broader impact of climate change and climate-related disasters. Before seeing a wildfire, I didn't understand the kind of ecological damage they cause, but if I had a comprehensive understanding of what these climate-related disasters are, that wouldn't be the case. Students must learn that the effects of climate change are not far away or in the future; they are in the here and now. Equipping students with knowledge about climate change is bound to lead them down a career path where they can contribute towards solutions regarding our planet. Allowing for a broader education regarding climate change can have positive consequences for the children of today and tomorrow.

As lawmakers, you have the power to create change within the wider world to a degree that regular people do not have. You can act in the best interest of the public that you represent, and a bill that contributes to the education of a looming climate crisis is very much in the interest of the public. I urge you to consider the wider significance of this bill and how your decision may affect future generations to come.

I thank you for taking the time to consider my testimony, kind regards,

- Jacob Reyes Beeghly (He/Him)
Westview High School Grade 12