

WESTVIEW HIGH SCHOOL  
PORTLAND, OREGON

March 6, 2023

Hello, members of the Committee. I appreciate the opportunity to provide my voice on Senate Bill 854. My name is Stefan Lee and my preferred pronouns are he/him. I am a senior at Westview High and a part time worker at Jamba Juice. Today, I am reaching out to you as a member of Westview's National Honor Society to engage in a discussion about climate change and Senate Bill 854.

I would like to share my personal experience with the impacts of climate change, both on a personal and societal level. Whether through media coverage or firsthand experiences, I understand the effects of living in an era threatened by climate change. The consequences of wildfires, for example, restrict individuals' freedom to enjoy the outdoors and soak up the sun's rays. I recall one day when I went for a run and was met with a sky filled with brown clouds and a sun that glowed red.

In school, I was taught the importance of reducing plastic usage, recycling, and avoiding plastic straws. Personally, even working at Jamba Juice has shown me just how much plastic can be consumed in a short amount of time. I continue to advocate for earth-friendly options throughout our communities. While I acknowledge the significance of these actions in creating a more sustainable future, I firmly believe we must also continue to educate Oregon's youth on the broader factors contributing to climate change. Many celebrities and corporations prioritize profits at the expense of the planet, leaving a heavy carbon footprint that negatively impacts our environment. For example, Time reported in 2022 that singer, Taylor Swift, emitted over 8,200 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> through flights alone. In comparison, the average carbon footprint of a person located in the United States is 16 tons. It is crucial to raise awareness of the devastating effects these individuals and corporations have on our planet and to work collaboratively towards more sustainable solutions.

Senate Bill 854 is an excellent example of how discussion can positively influence a community. In order for our communities to progress in a climate-friendly direction, it is crucial to educate the public, particularly our youth, about the catastrophic consequences of climate change. It's important to remind the public the economical, societal, and political consequences of a burning Earth. As representatives of the public, you hold the power to push Oregon towards a greener future. Steps towards a sustainable future include thousands of high paying jobs and further ensures clean air and water for communities all around. A cleaner Oregon also means saving Oregon families money. By reducing utility bills and investing in advanced public transportation programs, Oregon truly could show itself as a true leader. I implore you to consider the long-term implications for future generations and recognize the significant impact that the State of Oregon can have in setting an example.

This bill not only advances climate education for Oregon's youth, but it also leaves a lasting impression for generations to come. As we collectively navigate our planet's destiny, it is important to recognize the power we possess in shaping its future. Thank you.

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