

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Srinidhi Gubba and I am a student at Westview High School. My pronouns are she/her and I am a senior. I am a part of different climate-based organizations, including my school's Climate Club. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 854.

Oregon is abundant in luscious forests and breathtaking views, making it a welcoming place to call home. Starting in September 2020, I saw both the greenery and people I appreciate so dearly struggle due to a plague of wildfires across the area. As a resident of Oregon for over 17 years, it was difficult for me to see my friends' homes burned, the sky yellow from constant smoke, and many Oregon trees reduced to ash. As I learned more about how climate change was impacting the community and environment around me, I became more conscious of my actions. For example, my family and I have become more aware of our shopping habits and are trying to reduce the amount of food waste we output. I also have increased my amount of recycling and have led local cleanup efforts as a way to help my surrounding nature. Learning about climate change fueled my desire to help communities important to me.

Climate education provides students with the opportunity to gain a better understanding of the changes happening around them. Educating the next generation is an integral part of implementing sustainable practices. With the educational actions suggested by Senate Bill 854, students will be able to discuss and learn about climate change from their peers and educators. This can help increase collaborative thinking and engagement, which are both important values for students like me.

For these reasons, I urge you to support Senate Bill 854. Supporting this bill means you are supporting actions that focus on the future generation. I hope to see climate education become more accessible for the youth in my community.

Kind Regards,  
Srinidhi Gubba  
Westview High School