

My name is Colette Dionne, and I'm a senior at Westview High School. I'm in the National Honor Society, and I also do volunteer work at OMSI. Having more than 60 volunteer hours at OMSI helped me to become knowledgeable with the museum's programs and demonstrations, especially with the ones about climate change. This is a topic I am familiar with and passionate about.

I want to share with you a little bit about my climate story. Every year, the negligence of only a few people as well as increasing global temperatures has led to wildfires that have decimated acres of vegetation as well as the air quality. As I have a history of pollution-related breathing problems, this bad air quality makes me stay indoors during many days of the summer.

It is important for students in Oregon to learn about climate change. When they learn about the gravity of the situation as well as the causes, they are more likely to grow into responsible adults that are able to make impactful voting decisions that can further improve the climate situation. Additionally, they are able to prevent further climate change effects by stopping certain harmful practices firsthand from a young age, such as not letting the water run while brushing teeth and such.

As lawmakers, you have the power to make a decision whose impacts can be felt by many generations into the future. This climate change issue is affecting all Oregonians indiscriminately, and without action now, this issue will only continue to get progressively worse. I urge you to think of the significant impacts this bill will have on future generations. Thank you.

Kind Regards,

Colette Dionne  
Avid Artist and Future Game Designer