

My name is Naveen Buddi, and I am a parent and technology professional. During the past few decades, I have witnessed several changes in Oregon's climate; warmer days, less rain, record-breaking summer temperatures, cold winters, and forest fires that have caused distress to several families. As a first-generation immigrant, I also witnessed the negative impact of global warming in the far east.

I was always fascinated by the visionary and proactive steps taken by past lawmakers in the United States to protect our environment and prepare the young generation with competitive curriculum in K-12 schools. Unfortunately, in recent times, many real issues impacting the community are being looked at with a partisan eye. Climate change is definitely one of them.

We may choose to believe or not believe in climate action, but we cannot choose to ignore the climate change phenomenon that we have been witnessing during the past few years and the negative impact on both communities and the economy. When I learned about SB 854, I was very glad that the younger generation was taking action to help shape their future.

Youth have the right to know data-driven facts about the causes of the climate anomalies that we are seeing today. By including climate change in the curriculum right from childhood, they will gain the necessary knowledge to understand the causes for it and its impact, so that they are better prepared to overcome the problems caused by the climate crisis. Knowledge spurs innovation and results in products and solutions that reduce the distress to mankind. It also better prepares future generations to compete in the increasingly global economic world.

Legislators have the responsibility to address issues facing the community proactively. We may choose to ignore the climate change issue based on the myth about lack of enough data, but the rest of the world is not ignoring this issue. Organizations like the UN are driving efforts to address this and make the planet a better place to live. The United States has just as much of a responsibility, if not more, to also be a leader in the climate movement and come up with innovative solutions.

Oregon lawmakers have the power and means to ensure that scientific data-driven knowledge is incorporated into the curriculum and that youth are provided with the knowledge and tools necessary to address this issue without getting indoctrinated. It is an opportunity for the legislatures to show to the world that Oregon can take the lead on the issue of climate change. It is also an opportunity for Oregon to keep the United States at the forefront of technological innovations that improve our climate and the economy associated with it. For these reasons, I strongly encourage you to support SB 854. Thank you.