

Submitter: Gauri Arora  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure: SB854

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Gauri Arora and I am currently a senior at Westview High School. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 854.

I wanted to share with you a little bit about my climate story. Growing up in Oregon, I have spent my life outdoors, whether it was going on weekly family walks on trails, hiking with friends in unknown nature parks, going to annual beach and camping trips, and more. It is thrilling to find hidden, widely unknown natural locations within Oregon, and I have grown up exploring the endless possibilities of the beautiful trails in Portland. Each year, however, I notice the Oregon that I fell in love with becoming seemingly unrecognizable due to the drastic impacts of climate change. With summers reaching extreme temperatures or forest fires spreading rapidly across my state, my home is certainly not what it used to be. As I look at my community today, I grieve for the loss of the beautiful nature that Oregon has been widely known for. I have noticed a lack of action being taken, especially a lack of education being spread about the drastic impacts of climate change.

As I have independently sought climate education to change the community around me, I have tried my best to become conscious of my actions and aid my community and the environment around me. I have increased my recycling and composting efforts and have participated in regional cleanup efforts to support my local environment. The vital knowledge I have gained about the climate keeps me driven on the path of returning Oregon's climate to the one I grew up in.

I believe that climate education is a crucial stepping stone in the journey of returning Oregon's climate to the one we widely knew and recognized. It plays a crucial role in ensuring that the younger generation gain a better understanding of their environment and actions they can do to aid it. Educating the upcoming generations is pivotal in the path of rectifying the drastic effects of climate change. With the educational actions suggested by Senate Bill 854, students will be able to collaborate with peers and learn key concepts from educators. This will foster a growth mindset among them and encourage the development of key interpersonal skills as they collaborate and implement creative solutions to climate change.

I urge you to support Senate Bill 854. You have the ability to implement this stepping stone in not only fostering young children's minds, but also fostering a sustainable future in Oregon. I strongly urge you to vote in favor of SB 854 and make climate

education easily accessible to every youth in my community.

Thank you,  
Gauri Arora