

Submitter: sage ingalsbe
On Behalf Of: 4H
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB854

Thank you Chair Dembrow and members of the committee.

My name is Sage Ingalsbe and I am the

I am here today testifying in support of SB 854. This bill would require each school district to develop a written plan establishing climate change instructional programs for k-12 grades by June 1, 2026.

I lost the campsite passed from before my great-grandmother due to the Santiam canyon fire. When the trees still stood tall, I learned by full submersion what was threatening the ecosystem with greater and greater fire bans. I am lucky few of my peers that have been submerged in mother nature, and my less fortunate peers, they'd never know the ecological damage. This legislation will ensure that generations of coming years will understand the rapidly changing ecosystems around them. This legislation will ensure future generations understand urbanization, climate change, and habitat loss. This legislation will provide proper education on sustainability and combat ecological disasters

As Jack Ward Thomas said at the Oregon timber summit in 1992 "There're maybe not more than 100 or so people in the entire world geared up to think about what ecosystem management means."

passing this bill will teach the students of Oregon will understand the changing world caused by urbanization and habitat loss. Students will learn how to navigate recurring ecological disasters such as wildfires that wipe out whole ecosystems and mass droughts in the Santiam river and when the older people say " the river looks so low this year." Initiating this new curriculum is not about climate change, but about the proper education of the world around them.

Please listen to youth voices and prioritize access to equitable climate justice education in our public schools this session and beyond. Thank you for your time and for allowing me the opportunity to speak today.