



**Testimony Re: SB 854
March 9, 2023**

Dear Chair Dembrow and members of the Senate Education Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 854. The North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) applauds the consideration and SB.854, and urge committee members to vote in favor of this legislation. SB 854 would significantly expand and integrate climate change instruction across all K-12 core subject areas (including language arts, sciences, mathematics, social studies, health, physical education and the arts). Passage of this bill would place Oregon on the leading edge of states seeking to better prepare our nation's students to understand and address the climate crisis in their communities now and far into the future.

Our analysis of state policies related to climate change education, as well as a recent survey of classroom teachers and administrators, clearly shows that teachers feel a responsibility to teach about climate change—across the curriculum—but feel unprepared to do so effectively. Students need to know much more than the science of climate change. They must have age-appropriate learning opportunities to build an understanding of the economic and social impacts of climate change from the local to the global scale, and investigate local impacts and solutions. Moreover, today's students need career pathways and preparation for the rapidly expanding “green” workforce.

I am pleased to see this legislation move forward and hope you will vote yes on SB 854.

Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,
Sarah Bodor
Director of Policy