

Submitter: Joshua Frankel
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB854

Dear Senators,

As an educator, and citizen of Oregon, I strongly support SB-854. The U.S. government has known about the realities of climate change for decades, and failed to act. People of all ages, nationalities and economic status around the globe are now prioritizing efforts to curb emissions and protect current and future generations from this emergency. Youth in Oregon need the tools to be ahead of the curve, and education is one of the main ways they will gain the knowledge they need to make a difference.

S.B. 854 provides a solid path to making climate education a standard part of every student's K12 coursework. Its bolsters and amplifies NGSS in meaningful ways, while ensuring a localized understanding of climate change effects in the various regions of our state. Simply put, climate education needs to be integrated into core subject areas, and SB-854 is designed to achieve this. It gives the power and resources needed to accomplish this into the hands of district leaders who know their schools, students and communities best.

The costs associated with this bill are likely to be small, compared with the massive savings provided by being prepared. With new generations of students prepared for a "climate resilient" work force, jobs needed to address climate and solidify greener energy and related resources will have more informed candidates moving forward.

Please listen to the educators, including the Oregon Education Association, and the countless number of students and families supporting this bill.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,
Joshua Frankel
Eugene, OR 97404