

Southern Oregon Climate Action Now

SOCAN

Confronting Climate Change

<https://socan.eco>

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Reference SB854

Chair Dembrow and members of the Senate Education Committee:

I write as cofacilitator of Southern Oregon Climate Action Now (SOCAN), an organization of over 2,000 rural Southern Oregonians who are concerned about the climate crisis and urge statewide action to address it. The mission of SOCAN is to promote awareness and understanding of the science of global warming and its climate chaos consequences and stimulate individual and collective action to address it. Since rural Oregonians occupy the frontlines in experiencing the impact of the drought, shrinking snowpack, wildfires and extreme weather that the climate crisis imposes, we are strongly committed to statewide action.

Many of us come to climate activism while, or after enjoying, careers in education. Fulfilling SOCAN's mission of promoting awareness and understanding about the science of climate change, its consequences, and what we can do to address it through adaptation and mitigation, we have established a Climate In The Classroom Project that offers programs to schools and teachers on all aspects of the climate issue.

In offering these programs over the decade of SOCAN's existence, we have become very aware that students in all grades are very familiar with the climate crisis even if they don't understand the basic science. Understandably, many are very concerned about what it portends for their future. They are also often extremely grateful to learn that we have the knowledge to address the problem and can, indeed, do so.

We feel strongly that it's our responsibility, as informed adults, to share with students throughout the grade levels and throughout the curriculum what the problem is, what is causing it, and how we can solve it. Being fully informed about this critical and stressful issue helps kids understand it fully, know that we have the knowledge to solve it, and know what they can do to address it.

For these reasons, SOCAN supports SB854 and, should it become law, we offer our expertise and experience to help actualize it.

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan Journet". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "A" and "J".

Alan Journet