

Philip H. Carver, Ph.D.¹ on Behalf of 350 Salem Oregon
Before the Senate Education Committee

Greetings to Chair Fredrick, Vice Chair Weber and members of the committee

350 Salem Oregon supports [House Bill 3365](#) on Common Curriculum Goals. The Dept. of Education has plenty of flexibility to implement this legislation. It will expand and improve climate resilience instruction across all K-12 core subject areas (language arts, sciences, mathematics, social studies, health, physical education and the arts). It is consistent with other academic content standards already reviewed and revised regularly by the State Board of Education and the Oregon Department of Education - with place-based, age-appropriate, solution-oriented guidelines developed for Oregon.

From 1990 to 2008 my work as a senior policy analyst for the Oregon Dept. focused on the science of climate change and working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from Oregon. I was one of two people in the state working on these issues in the early part of that time.

The science of climate change is physics. It is more solid than plate tectonics. The model-based projections of climate change for the period 1990 to 2024, made before 1990, have proved quite accurate in forecasting the major elements (average global surface air temperature change, etc). We have now roughly passed the threshold of 1.5 degrees C of change in the air that world governments agreed in 2016 should be avoided. We now face many serious climate tipping points.

With emissions still growing, the climate crisis will likely be the most important issue during the lives of children in K-12 education today – and in their children’s lives. It is critical that they understand the implications as they choose where to live, what kinds of employment to pursue and other major personal decisions.

HB 3365 is an investment in Oregon’s future. 350 Salem Oregon strongly supports HB 3365, which aligns with [NOAA's Climate Literacy Guide](#) to provide Oregon’s youth with innovative, solution-focused learning. It prepares students not only to understand climate science but also to engage in personal, civic and economic solutions that will sustain them and our state’s industries and ecosystems for generations to come.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

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