

Dr Dominique Bachelet, Oregon State University - in support of HB3365  
(1 minute oral testimony if called before 9am)

I have been a climate change scientist since January 1989 projecting vegetation changes and particularly wildfires. The last 4 years I have taken to France undergrad students to explore climate change effects on agriculture and urbanization.

I have realized those students had little to no background in climate science. Visiting with them the World Meteorological Organization at the United Nations, I was truly shocked to realize so few students had even heard of the IPCC. Most of the climate science we published seem to have passed them by. Every year, students come back enthusiastic because they saw climate aware people designing strategies to adapt and mitigate. They could learn so much more if they had already learnt climate basics.

Oregon like France has large farming communities and a vibrant wine industry. Improving students' basic understanding of the challenges their communities face through a solid K-12 education in climate change science would help decrease their sense of defeat when faced with dramatic headlines and enhance their capacity to envision a healthy future that they would know they can contribute to shape.

Thank you members of the House Education committee for the opportunity to speak today in support of HB3365 that will help empower climate smart students.