

Attachment 5

Thank you. My name is Leslie Atkins Elliott, I'm a resident of Boise, a parent, a former high school teacher, have a phd in physics, and am faculty in education at boise state. I'm speaking to you in all of these capacities. As a mother, i hope that my children will be able to go to the college of their choosing, be successful in major of their choosing. But as a professor, I can tell you that in many universities, faculty will assume that students enter their courses with some fundamental knowledge about climate change. I do not want an admissions board to see my daughter's transcript and think "she's from Idaho, so she's going to need some remedial science classes." As a high school teacher, I would not want to be hamstrung by the standards - a lack of clear standards on climate change limits what gets put into textbooks, what kinds of professional development opportunities are offered, the assessments given and - yes - even if I am allowed to teach climate change, if it is in not in the standards then this is hard to do well. And finally, as a scientist, I want to reiterate that saying we need to talk about the benefits of climate change is like requiring doctors that they tell lepers that the benefit is that they are going to lose weight. The benefits that our legislators purport to be missing from the standards are not benefits at all, but threaten the capacity of our planet to sustain the number of people we have living here right now. I urge you to reintroduce climate change to our standards. Thank you.