

September 14-15, 2010 OWEB Board Meeting

Executive Director Update #C-6: Oregon “No Child Left Inside” Update

Background – Federal No Child Left Inside Act of 2009

A pending federal bill, the No Child Left Inside Act of 2009, amends the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (also known as “No Child Left Behind”) to allow states to receive grants to implement environmental education programs. Under the bill, \$100 million would be allocated nationally for fiscal year 2010 and each of the four succeeding fiscal years for implementation and teacher professional development. To receive funds, a state must develop and begin implementation of an Environmental Literacy Plan.

Status – No Child Left Inside Act of 2009

It was introduced in the House of Representatives in April of 2009 as H.R.2054 and referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor. The bill was introduced in the Senate as S.866 and was referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. On June 4, 2009, the bill was referred to the Senate Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education. The national No Child Left Inside Coalition is still optimistic about the bill’s passage and many states are moving forward with their Environmental Literacy Plans in preparation.

Background – No Oregon Child Left Inside Act of 2009

In June of 2009, the Oregon Legislature passed HB 2544, the “No Oregon Child Left Inside Act” (NOCLI). The bill was signed into law by Governor Ted Kulongoski on July 22, 2009. NOCLI established a Task Force, made up of officials from state natural resource and education agencies and other organizations, to develop an Oregon Environmental Literacy Plan.

OWEB staff have participated in Task Force and subcommittee meetings because of the agency’s interest as a primary funder of many of the model environmental education programs of the state. In addition, there have been preliminary discussions among Task Force members regarding the potential strategic alignment of OWEB’s educational investments with the goals of the Environmental Literacy Plan.

OWEB’s Strategic Plan

Goal 3, Strategy 2, Action 3 in the OWEB 2010 Strategic Plan is to “Work with partners to develop and implement the Oregon Environmental Literacy Plan (“No Child Left Inside”).” As stated above, staff have been attending Task Force meetings and participating in its subcommittees.

Status of Oregon’s Environmental Literacy Plan

A draft Environmental Literacy Plan will be discussed at the Task Force meeting on September 2, 2010. Staff intend to update the Education/Outreach Subcommittee on the elements and status of the plan this fall.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Carolyn Devine, Communications Coordinator, at carolyn.devine@state.or.us or 503-986-0195.