

One of the "5 items" removed from the Ed. Corr. is today's C.C. This is the GREATEST challenge that confronts our generation, our children's generation.

Dear Idaho Legislature,

February 23, 2017

I am a mom to a 1<sup>st</sup> grader and a preschooler in the Boise school system. I am also a climate change scientist and study how climate change drives wildfire activity in Idaho.

<sup>2</sup> Last week, the Idaho House of Representatives voted to remove key references to climate change caused by human behavior from our state's K-12 science standards. The rationale? They want to hear 'both sides of the story.'

The Earth is warming, and people are the cause. Period. There is not any debate about this in the scientific community. There is not any 'other side' to this story. Even the oil and gas industry acknowledges the fact that humans are indeed causing climate change.

So why are some of our elected leaders denying this? Rep. Styme and Sen. Foreman are clearly in what I would call in 'The 5 Stages of Climate Grief.' Foreman went so far as to say climate change is a liberal "scam" and "ridiculous nonsense."

Icecaps doesn't have a political agenda—they just melt. Forest fires don't have a political agenda—they just burn. Scientists don't have a political agenda—we are just trying to educate people about the state of our planet, and what we can do about it.

Idaho legislators—please do the right thing and lead your people. The right thing to do is educate our agricultural communities about what will and won't grow in Idaho in a warmer and drier future. The right thing is to learn how we can reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and invest and profit from clean energy alternatives. The right thing is to educate our citizens and children about climate change.

We need you to lead Idaho forward to prepare for the biggest challenge to confront our generation, and many yet to come.

Dr. Jennifer Pierce  
Associate Professor  
Department of Geosciences  
Boise State University  
1910 University Drive  
Boise, ID 83725-1535  
[208-426-5380](tel:208-426-5380)  
[jenpierce@boisestate.edu](mailto:jenpierce@boisestate.edu)

Attachment 2