

# 550+ Texas Scientists, Teachers Agree on Teaching Evolution

November 1, 2003

Dear Board of Education member,

As scientists and teachers who live and work in Texas, we write to urge the Texas State Board of Education to choose only textbooks that present accepted, peer-reviewed science and pedagogical expertise. We believe that such a process leads to strong curricula of the highest quality, accuracy, and pedagogical appropriateness.

An institution known for promoting the inclusion of religious tenets in science curricula is trying to water down the strong, peer-reviewed science in the textbooks and to influence the Board of Education to choose these unacceptable books.

At a time when our nation's welfare increasingly depends on technology, it has never been more important for students to understand the basic ideas of modern science. Evolution is not a belief, a hunch, or an untested hypothesis; it has been extensively tested and repeatedly verified. Any dilution in textbooks of the overwhelming scientific evidence for evolution should sound an alarm to every parent and teacher.

We urge you to continue supporting high standards in Texas science textbooks and not to be swayed by misleading information. Your diligence will ensure that Texas students will be better equipped for higher education and the workplace.

Very Truly Yours,

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**This letter has been signed by scientists throughout the Texas science and technology enterprise including prominent researchers in major corporations, small businesses, and our research universities. Distinguished teachers in all levels of the Texas education system, including K-12, community colleges, colleges and universities, have signed.**

*Affiliation for identification purposes only*