

November 15, 2013

A Message to the Texas State Board of Education:

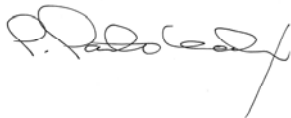
The textbooks adopted for use in Texas schools have a profound influence on science instruction in Texas and across the United States. The American Geosciences Institute (AGI), a national scientific organization representing over 250,000 geoscientists, calls upon the Texas State Board of Education to adopt textbooks based on the guidance of Texas's many excellent scholars and master teachers. Following their guidance will ensure that grades K-12 Texas students learn the most accurate and current science, especially evolution and the scientific basis of climate change.

The following is AGI's position on teaching evolution:

"Scientific evidence indicates beyond any doubt that life has existed on Earth for billions of years. This life has evolved through time producing vast numbers of species of plants and animals, most of which are extinct. Although scientists debate the mechanism that produced this change, the evidence for the change is undeniable. Therefore, in the teaching of science we oppose any position that ignores this scientific reality, or that gives equal time to interpretations based on religious beliefs only."

By adopting textbooks recommended by the top scientists and teachers in Texas, you will give students and teachers the foundation for an exemplary science education, the sort of education that they will need to succeed in the 21st century.

Sincerely,



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