



National Association of Geoscience Teachers

NAGT • c/o Carleton College B-SERC • One North College Street • Northfield, MN 55057
<http://nagt.org> • 507-646-5634 • Fax 507-646-5175

TO: Texas State Board of Education

3/23/2009

Subject: TEKS Earth Science Standards

Dear Board Members,

As President of the National Association of Geoscience Teachers, an organization of 1600 science teachers concerned about science education, I respectfully ask that you use the language shown below when adopting the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) standards for Earth and Space Sciences. These changes reflect the current scientific consensus.

Change 112.XX (c). to read:

(4) Earth in Space and Time. The student knows how Earth-based and space-based astronomical observations reveal information about the structure, scale, composition, origin, and history of the universe.

(5) Earth in Space and Time. The student knows the solar nebular accretionary disk model.

(5) (B) investigate thermal energy sources, including kinetic heat of impact accretion, gravitational compression, and radioactive decay, and their role in protoplanet differentiation into layers and atmosphere and hydrosphere formation.

(6) (D) evaluate the evidence that Earth's cooling led to tectonic activity, resulting in continents and ocean basins.

(8) (A) evaluate a variety of fossil types, transitional fossils, fossil lineages, and significant fossil deposits with regard to their appearance, completeness, and rate and diversity of evolution;

Sincerely,

David Steer
President, NAGT