

TABT

2006 Creekview
Commerce, Texas 75428-3947
19 February, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

In a biology classroom in a small town high school in Texas, a student begins the study of evolution with a question for the teacher, "Miss, do you believe in evolution?" The teacher possessed the perfect opportunity to remind this student – and all the other students in class – that evolution is not a matter of belief, but of science. If the teacher was a good one, as so many of our teachers in Texas are, the reply may have been:

"Suze, evolution is a scientific theory that has been repeatedly tested and continuously supported by the evidence for 150 years. That is pretty rigorous testing, similar to the testing of other theories such as the germ theory of disease or the theory of gravitation."

The Texas Association of Biology Teachers (TABT) supports the consensus of the scientific community that evolution is the unifying theme of biology. It is critically important to our students – who are our future – to instruct them in this core theme of biology in a way that is scientific and free of religiously or politically motivated modification. TABT stands with other scientific organizations including the AAAS, NSTA, STAT, and NABT in the mission of preparing a scientifically literate generation of students.

TABT implores the Texas State Board of Education to vote for the draft of the biology standards that was last proposed by the working group of Texas teachers and which is free of any SBOE amendments or language changes made subsequent to their submission. Texas has the opportunity of getting it right. Let's do so this time.

Sincerely,

Joy Killough,
President

Benjy Wood,
Past President

Karen Hewitt,
President Elect

Jennifer Kaszuba,
Secretary/Treasurer

Alton L. Biggs,
Appointee of the President

Texas Association of Biology Teachers