



AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY

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3 November 2014

Barbara Cargill
State Board of Education
Texas Education Agency
1701 N. Congress Avenue
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Chair Cargill:

A recent study by the National Center for Science Education (NCSE)¹ found that several of the textbooks being considered for your adoption contain factual errors in scientific information related to global climate change. In particular, some of the textbook material implies — incorrectly — that the role of humans in changing the Earth's climate is not well established. As noted in the American Meteorological Society's statement "Climate Science is Core to Science Education"²

The primary findings of climate change science have been well established in the peer-reviewed science literature and replicated by numerous independent investigators and methodologies. Blue-ribbon panels of scientists convened by organizations such as the National Academy of Sciences have carried out formal evaluations of scientific studies and provide a consensus opinion regarding climate change. Leading scientific organizations beyond the AMS³ (e.g., American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Geophysical Union, and European Geophysical Union) have considered the state of the science and are in consensus on the topic as well. There are small scientific differences as research continues to refine the details, but there is strong agreement on the primary findings and essentially no controversy with respect to them.

Presenting the science correctly is just as important in textbooks covering the social sciences as it is in those used to teach science. We urge the Board to only adopt textbooks that are as scientifically accurate as possible and to insist that publishers ensure that their texts are as accurate as possible in all respects.

The American Meteorological Society and the American Association of Physics Teachers would be happy to help connect you with members of the scientific community who could review textbooks for scientific accuracy.

Sincerely,

Dr. Keith L. Seitter
Executive Director
American Meteorological Society

Dr. Beth A. Cunningham
Executive Officer
American Association of Physics Teachers

cc: Josh Rosenau, Programs and Policy Director, National Center for Science Education;
McGraw Hill; Pearsons

¹ <http://ncse.com/files/Texas-social-studies-report-2014.pdf>

² http://www.ametsoc.org/policy/2013climatesciencecorescienceducation_amsstatement.html

³ <http://www.ametsoc.org/policy/2012climatechange.html>