



March 23, 2009

Chairman Don McLeroy  
Texas State Board of Education  
9277 Brookwater Circle  
College Station, TX 77845

Dear Chairman McLeroy:

We, members of the Texas scientific community, in collaboration with the American Association for the Advancement of Science, encourage you as a member of the State Board of Education to oppose amendments to the draft state science standards that would harm the teaching of science in Texas.

Certain amendments introduced and approved during the January 2009 board meeting would mislead students should they make it into the final standards. For example, an amendment to Biology Section 7 attacks the foundational concept of common ancestry, and revisions to the Earth and Space Science standards introduce unwarranted uncertainty to long-settled scientific issues. These amendments serve only to undermine sound science education in Texas. We would be happy to provide more details on these points.

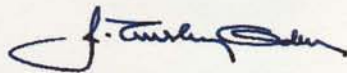
In rejecting the insertion of language that speaks of the “weaknesses” of evolution into the standards, the Board did the students of Texas a great service. The scientific consensus is that evolution is the backbone of modern biology and many other fields of science, underlying advances in areas such as agriculture and medicine. Downplaying its place in science only serves to confuse students.

Students exposed to a strong science curriculum will undoubtedly be better prepared to compete for high-skill jobs in an increasingly high-tech world economy. We urge you to vote for removing anti-science changes to the draft standards and protect the future of science education and technology-based industry in Texas. Please feel free to contact us if we can be of further assistance.

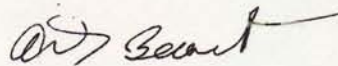
Sincerely,

Alan I. Leshner  
Chief Executive Officer  
AAAS

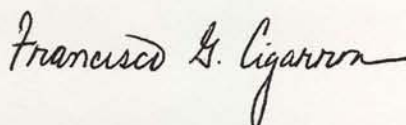
David E. Daniel, Ph.D.  
2009 TAMEST President  
President, University of Texas at Dallas



J. Tinsley Oden, Ph.D.  
2009 TAMEST Past President  
Associate Vice President for Research and  
Director of ICES  
The University of Texas at Austin



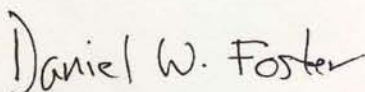
Arthur L. Beaudet, M.D.  
TAMEST Board Member  
Professor and Chairman  
Department of Molecular and Human Genetics  
Baylor College of Medicine



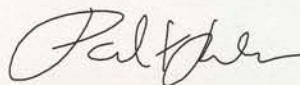
Francisco G. Cigarroa, M.D.  
2009 TAMEST Vice President  
Chancellor  
University of Texas System



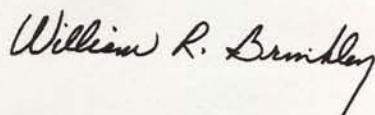
Mr. Kenneth E. Arnold, P.E.  
TAMEST Board Member  
President  
K. Arnold Consulting, Inc.



Daniel W. Foster, M.D.  
2007 TAMEST President  
John Denis McGarry, Ph.D. Distinguished  
Chair in Diabetes and Metabolic Research  
The University of Texas Southwestern  
Medical Center at Dallas



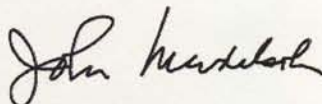
Paul F. Barbara, Ph.D.  
TAMEST Board Member  
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in Chemistry  
The University of Texas at Austin



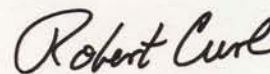
William R. Brinkley, Ph.D.  
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Sciences  
Senior Vice President for Graduate Sciences  
Baylor College of Medicine



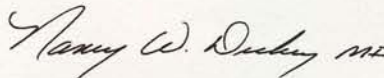
Allen J. Bard, Ph.D.  
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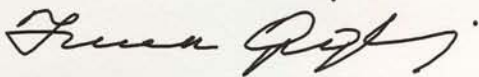
John Mendelsohn, M.D.  
2009 TAMEST Treasurer  
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Cancer Center



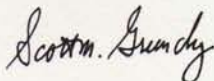
Robert F. Curl, Ph.D.  
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Kenneth S. Pitzer-Schlumberger Professor  
of Natural Science Emeritus  
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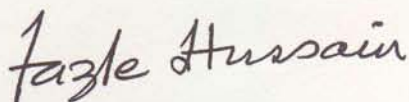
Nancy W. Dickey, M.D.  
TAMEST Board Member  
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Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs  
Texas A&M System



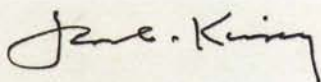
Irma Gigli, M.D.  
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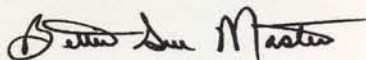
Scott M. Grundy, M.D., Ph.D.  
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Fazle Hussain, Ph.D.  
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Bettie Sue Masters, Ph.D., D.Sc.  
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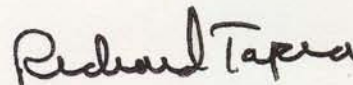
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2006 TAMEST President  
Ernest Cockrell, Sr. Chair in Engineering  
The University of Texas at Austin



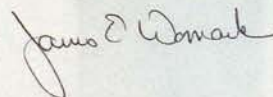
Kenneth I. Shine, M.D.  
Executive Vice Chancellor for Health  
Affairs  
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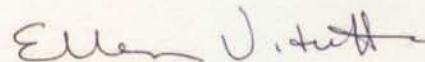
Max D. Summers, Ph.D.  
TAMEST Board Member  
Distinguished Professor, Endowed Chair in  
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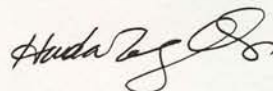
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Baylor College of Medicine  
Investigator  
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