Ecological Society of America
1990 M Street, NW
Suite 700
Washington, DC 20036

October 28, 2014

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

Dear Chair Cargill,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Ecological Society of America (ESA), the world's largest community of professional ecologists and a trusted source of ecological knowledge, committed to advancing the understanding of life on Earth. The 10,000-member Society publishes six journals and broadly shares ecological information through policy and media outreach and education initiatives.

We are requesting that the social-studies textbook publishers (listed on the next page) for Texas K-12 be required to revise their textbooks to reflect accurately the current scientific knowledge on the subject of climate change.

The scientific evidence tells an unambiguous story: the planet is warming, and over the last half century, this warming has been driven primarily by human activity. U.S. average temperature has increased by 1.3°F to 1.9°F since 1895, and most of this increase has occurred since 1970. Temperatures are projected to rise another 2°F to 4°F in most areas of the United States over the next few decades.

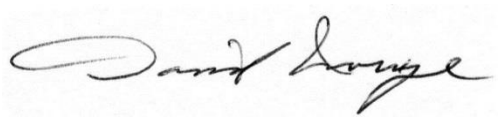
A report developed by the National Center for Science Education highlights textbook excerpts that represent the factual errors. Textbooks for our children should cultivate the foundation for understanding the full scope of what peer-reviewed Ph.D. research has revealed about climate change and its consequences for human society.

Comprehensive scientific reports, both national and international, have affirmed the current scientific consensus. Scientists and engineers from around the world have meticulously collected this evidence, using satellites and networks of weather balloons, thermometers, buoys, and other observing systems. The recently published National Climate Assessment outlines the impacts of climate change in detail region by region. It notes that sea level rise will contribute to greater storm damage for coastal Texas and other states along the Gulf Coast. Texas communities will be among regions of the continental US that suffer increasing frequencies of extreme heat leading to water shortages due to climate change impacts.

Policy implications of climate change are far-reaching and impact both public and private sector decisions related to agriculture, energy, water, forests, human health, transportation and infrastructure. Misrepresenting the level of scientific consensus stands to diminish our capacity to understand, mitigate and adapt to the real long-term threats to human society posed by these environmental changes.

Consequently, it is important that our children have accurate textbooks that reflect a real-world understanding of climate change, its causes and what can be done to manage its multifaceted impacts.

Sincerely,



Dr. David W. Inouye
ESA President

Textbooks and publishers:

- *McGraw-Hill Education* (World Cultures & Geography)
- *Pearson* (Social Studies K-5)
- *Studies Weekly Publications* (Social Studies K-5)
- *WorldView Software* (Economics)

Report by the National Center for Science Education: Analysis of Climate Change in Proposed Social Studies Textbooks for Texas Public Schools

cc: Josh Rosenau, Programs and Policy Director, National Center for Science Education; McGraw-Hill Education; Pearson; Studies Weekly Publications; WorldView Software