

July 22, 2011

Dear Madam Chairman and esteemed board members,

We write as members of the biology review panels, deeply concerned about the claims of factual errors in the submission from Holt McDougal. We do not agree that the claims listed are errors, and in examining the response from Holt McDougal, we find the publisher's rationale scientifically valid, correct, and aligned to the TEKS.

Indeed, we considered many of these same topics in the supplements we reviewed. Holt McDougal's supplement, as well as the publisher's response to the reviewers, accurately describes the current state of the science, satisfies the TEKS, and matches the other supplements already approved by the board on Thursday.

Moreover, the claims advanced by at least one member of committee that reviewed Holt McDougal's submission are scientifically inaccurate and seem entirely dedicated to undermining the presentation of evolution. Many of the claims derive from overtly creationist literature and arguments.

Should Holt McDougal be forced to make the changes suggested, the publisher would not be correcting errors, but adding them. If we had been given a chance to review the publishers' replies, this last-minute message would not have been necessary.

In short, we are satisfied with Holt McDougal's response and recommend adoption of the supplement without amendment.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ronald Wetherington
Southern Methodist University

Kevin Fisher
Lewisville ISD

Kelly Hall
Grapevine-Colleyville ISD

Cynthia Tanner
Corpus Christi ISD

Dawna Schweitzer
Eagle-Mountain-Saginaw ISD