RECEIVED
Jun 22 2021
Independent Regulatory Review Commission

From: Martha Morgan
To: ED, State Board of Ed
Subject: [External] Keep strong science education standards in Pennsylvania!
Date: Friday, June 18, 2021 12:33:13 PM

ATTENTION: *This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.*

Dear Executive Director Karen Molchanow,

Good morning,

Thank you for supporting the process of revising the Pennsylvania Science, Technology, and Environment and Ecology standards. Based on the public information shared on the PA Department of Education website, I have concerns about the proposed Integrated Standards for Science, Environment and Ecology at the secondary level (grades 6-12) and how it will impact current and future students in our state.

The new proposed standards do not explicitly include Environment, Ecology and Agriculture as performance expectations. These were previously independent state standards that teachers were required to cover. The proposed integrated standards for grades 6-12 must include Environment, Ecology, and Agriculture as a separate, fifth domain. Furthermore, watershed and wetlands, agriculture and society, and integrated pest management should be addressed through individual performance expectations.

These three topics are critical to ensure that Pennsylvania students are informed citizens and are prepared for the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century economy. The new standards may be in place for several years, leaving these critical topics out of student's education will result in a deficit of valuable learning.

Please ensure Environment, Ecology, and Agriculture standards are not lost. I implore you to create a fifth, separate domain for these three content topics, ensuring these vital subject areas are not neglected and that Pennsylvania students are set up for success.

Thank you for supporting meaningful learning for students across the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,
Martha Morgan
222 W Rittenhouse Sq
Philadelphia, PA 19103