



**From:** [Ian Watson](#)  
**To:** [ED, State Board of Ed](#)  
**Subject:** [External] Science Education Standards - support  
**Date:** Friday, July 2, 2021 11:37:42 AM

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Dear Ms Molcharow

I hear that

"newly proposed standards have largely **omitted Environment, Ecology and Agriculture from the secondary level**"

I strongly SUPPORT this omission. At a time when our state, and indeed the whole country find ourselves in a technology race with other countries, that we appear to be losing, now is NOT the time to divert student's attention to "feel-good" activism.

The many daily reminders of our mass innumeracy and scientific ignorance add urgency to the idea of making our educational standards more rigorous, not less.

I have a PhD in the sciences (Chemistry), and have worked as a Computational Scientist my whole career. I raised my sons with a love of mathematics and science, and have been delighted to see them both grow to be quantitatively competent citizens.

And as a city dweller, I have always been disappointed in my own ignorance of Agriculture. But I worry that including Agriculture in a syllabus would merely be an excuse for indoctrination about the evils of factory farms, the dangers of Genetically Modified Organisms, the ghastly impact of dairy on climate change, the urgency around elimination of dangerous synthetic pesticides, and the urgent need for us all to adopt fresh and local organic, vegetarian or vegan lifestyle alternatives. This will help nobody.

Parents wishing for their children to become more aware about any of these areas have an abundance of resources available to them. Let's have our schools be a place where kids learn the stuff that will make or break this country.

Yes we all want clean air and healthy food and unspoiled areas we can enjoy... But we also need a scientifically literate population. Every classroom hour spent on activism is an hour lost in our most important objective.

Sincerely yours...

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