

STATEMENT OF FRED CUTTING
MEMBER, FLORIDA SCIENCE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

My name is Fred Cutting and I am a retired aerospace engineer with an avocation in studying biology, specifically regarding the origination of species and the human genome project. I was selected to serve on the Florida Science Standards Framers Committee in part because of my interest in biological sciences. I served on the life sciences sub-committee.

In summary, the life sciences sub-committee was very one sided, bias and narrow in its final views. The proposed evolution standards are dogmatic and not scientifically neutral. Usually when we discuss science we use phrases like "this is our best theory to date". In contrast, the proposed standards instead presume ideas to be facts and leave no opportunity to study them beyond their narrow presentation.

In the biology standards for evolution that were proposed, there was no room for any critical thinking or criticism of prevailing science theories. Students are not encouraged to do any critical thinking or evaluations within the proposed standards being questioned. The life sciences sub committee refused to distinguish between what can be observed, tested and objectively verified, one on hand, and what is speculation and or mere hypothesis on the other.

It was apparent to me that other members of the drafting committee were not abreast of the latest developments in the scientific literature regarding micro-biology, species origination and the origination of life. When I asked my fellow committee members to consider these latest developments published as part of the Vienna Series in Theoretical Biology, they ignored my challenge to study the most current scientific breakthroughs.

One of the educational professionals from Florida State remarked to me after the deliberation that she felt as if the committee was "treating the theory of evolution as a religion".

My goal was to try and promote a curriculum that even handed and would present both the strengths and weaknesses of evolution. Those attempts were met with hostility and aggressive opposition. While all of my colleagues on the Science Standards Committee were professional and collegial, a couple of them were very intolerant, aggressive, and dogmatic about protecting what appears to be a closely held personal philosophical commitment over what is the best science available to Florida's students. Many others followed their lead like sheep.

Respectfully Submitted,



Fred Cutting
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