

Gayle C. Manchin, President of West Virginia Board of Education  
and Members of the West Virginia Board of Education

Re: Modifications to Next Generation Science Standards

Dear President Manchin and Members of the WV Board of Education:

We, the undersigned faculty from West Virginia University, are concerned that modifications made to the WV Science Standards by the WV State Board of Education are not consistent with scientific consensus on climate change and urge you to take action to adopt the national Next Generation Science Standards as conceived and developed by The National Research Council, the National Science Teachers Association, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and Achieve to ensure that K-12 students in West Virginia are provided with the best STEM education.

It has become axiomatic that the American public is increasingly unable to comprehend the complex scientific information needed to make rational policy decisions concerning the rapid changes in the sciences. We believe that it is important to teach students at a young age to think critically and challenge them to learn the underpinnings of all scientific issues so that they may participate intellectually in the series of ongoing debates and discussions about current events, such as global climate change. The proposed modifications to the WV Science Standards that deliver a deceptive interpretation of the scientifically accepted human influence on current climate change provides a great disservice to our young students and our teachers in West Virginia.

As teachers of higher education and concerned citizens in West Virginia, we urge you to reconsider the amendments that you have made that add erroneous interpretations of climate change science to the WV Science Standards. Thank you for your consideration of this request, and please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like more information and/or to discuss these issues further.

Sincerely,



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