



Barbara Cargill  
State Board of Education  
Texas Education Agency  
1701 N. Congress Avenue  
Austin, Texas, 78701

Dear Chair Cargill,

I am writing to urge you to ensure that the publishers of proposed social-studies textbooks (listed at the end of this letter) for Texas K-12 schools revise their books to accurately reflect current scientific knowledge on the subject of climate change. The American Geophysical Union (AGU) strongly encourages you to consult a report developed by the National Center for Science Education that highlights textbook excerpts that represent the factual errors. These textbooks must be revised to be scientifically accurate before being released.

Humanity is the major influence on the global climate change observed over the past 50 years. This scientific consensus is reflected in the official positions of scientific associations and societies, including AGU, and national academies of science from 80 nations. Human-caused increases in greenhouse gases are responsible for most of the observed global average surface warming of roughly 0.8°C (1.5°F) over the past 140 years. For these textbooks to present climate change as a “debate,” or to suggest that there is scientific uncertainty around the drivers of climate change, is to misrepresent our scientific understanding and do a disservice to our children.

The global economy increasingly requires an understanding of Earth and space sciences. Therefore, it is important to have a public that is able to make informed choices on critical societal issues related to Earth and space sciences, including climate change. In the U.S., the only opportunity for most people to learn science in a formal setting occurs in grades K-12. It is crucial that K-12 students be given accurate representations of science and the state of scientific knowledge, including climate change, in all their educational materials and classes.

AGU is a scientific society with more than 62,000 members worldwide. Many of our members have conducted research fundamental to our understanding of climate change, and many have

served as authors and reviewers for comprehensive climate-science assessments such as the U.S. National Climate Assessment and the National Academy of Sciences' America's Climate Choices. AGU recognizes the rigor and value of the science as well as the need for it to be taught well and presented accurately in our schools.

That is why I hope you will ensure that the content of the textbooks you approve for Texas schools provides students with the accurate information they need and deserve.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christine W. McEntee". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent flourish at the end.

Christine McEntee  
Executive Director/CEO  
American Geophysical Union

**Textbooks and publishers:**

- *McGraw-Hill Education* (World Cultures & Geography)
- *Pearson* (Social Studies K-5)
- *Studies Weekly Publications* (Social Studies K-5)
- *WorldView Software* (Economics)

Report by the National Center for Science Education: [Analysis of Climate Change in Proposed Social Studies Textbooks for Texas Public Schools](#)

cc: Josh Rosenau, Programs and Policy Director, National Center for Science Education; McGraw-Hill Education; Pearson; Studies Weekly Publications; WorldView Software