

**Gail Lowe**

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**Sent:** Thursday, November 06, 2008 3:01 PM  
**Subject:** FW: TEKS - ESS Minority Report

**From:** Roger Sigler [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 06, 2008 1:30 PM  
**To:** Martinez, Monica G.; SBOESUPPORT  
**Cc:** Terri S. Leo; 'Tom Henderson'; Givens, Anita; Roger Sigler  
**Subject:** TEKS - ESS Minority Report

November 6, 2008

Texas Education Agency (TEA) and State Board of Education (SBOE)  
 Attn: Monica Martinez (TEA) and SBOE support

Minority Report of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills - Earth and Space Science (TEKS - ESS) panel

We disagree with some aspects of the current draft of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills - Earth and Space Science (TEKS - ESS) document. We feel the thrust of 'expert opinions' was inadequately incorporated. Critical thinking is a key learning skill all students are expected to learn in both public schools and higher educational institutions. Elimination of all "strengths and weaknesses" phrases substantially weakens this important requirement. In most cases no equivalent wording was substituted, and where substituted, was vague and inadequate to guide textbook publishers.

Another issue the experts had was that the tone of the TEKS - ESS was too dogmatic. Little was done to correct this problem.

Therefore, we ask the State Board of Education (SBOE) to modify or substitute language where appropriate to better reflect the need for critical thinking and other excellent advice the appointed experts provided.

Please forward this minority report to all SBOE members and other TEA personnel as may be appropriate.

Sincerely yours,

Roger Sigler

Tom Henderson

11/13/2008