

# Remarks of Greg Lassey, B.S., M.Ed, to the Kansas State Board of Education

May 14, 2013

Madam Chairman and Members of the Board,

I am Greg Lassey, a retired biology teacher, former member of the Kansas Science Writing Committee and Co-Author of objective science standards adopted by the State Board in November 2005.

I am also an officer and director of Citizens for Objective Public Education (COPE), a non-profit organization that seeks to protect the religious rights of parents, students and taxpayers in public education.

I want to speak about a *Framework for K-12 Science Education* and *Next Generation Science Standards* which we understand the State Board is considering for adoption.

COPE has engaged in an extensive analysis of the *Framework* and *Standards*. Summaries are contained in a ten page letter to Achieve, Inc. dated June 1, 2012, and a five page letter dated January 29, 2013. Copies are attached to my written remarks. You should seriously consider these before you vote.

Generally, the analyses show that the *Framework* and *Standards* seek to engage impressionable young children, beginning in Kindergarten, in a discussion of two ultimate religious questions - where do we come from and what is the nature of life?

They then employ a "Rule" or doctrine called methodological naturalism so that the children will be provided only with materialistic and functionally atheistic answers to these questions.

One may reasonably expect that the effect of this program, carried out over a period of 13 years, will achieve a key goal of the *Framework*: that the children develop a religious world view that embraces this particular view of how their lives are related to the world in which they live.<sup>1</sup>

It is an effect that seeks to indoctrinate rather than inform. It is one that is neither scientifically objective nor religiously neutral.

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<sup>1</sup> "By its nature, religion - in the comprehensive sense in which the Constitution uses that word - is an aspect of human thought and action which profoundly relates the life of man to the world in which he lives." *McGowan v. Maryland*, 366 U.S. 420,461 (1961) (Frankfurter, J. concurring, with Harlan, J.). Religions include non-theistic religions such as Atheism and Religious ("secular") Humanism [*Lee v. Weisman*, 505 U.S. 577, 617 (1992)].

In short the *Framework* and *Standards* reflect a blueprint and implementing directions to establish in public schools a non-theistic religious world view. We believe this will have the effect of taking the religious rights of parents, students and taxpayers.

My hope is that you would provide COPE with more time to explain the problem. Three minutes is obviously not adequate. We will adjust our schedules to meet yours. My contact information is on my written remarks.

Thank you for listening.