

I confidently support the Kansas College and Career Ready Standards for Science adopted by the Kansas State Board of Education in June 2013. I stand against the disingenuous approach of attaching SB 67 to HB 2292 to block implementation of these new Standards for K-12 science.

I served on the 60-member committee of Kansan citizens from business and industry, elementary education, secondary education, post-secondary education, informal science education, and representation from the Kansas State Board of Education that collaborated in a rigorous process in crafting our Kansas College and Career Ready Standards for Science. We collaborated with teams from other States to develop standards built upon the educational research and best practice represented in the *Framework for K-12 Science Education* published by the National Academy of Sciences. Many Kansas citizens contributed to the public review of our Standards, which was documented in testimony to the Kansas State Board of Education in hearings leading to its approval of the Standards.

As a science teacher educator who prepares middle/secondary teachers and collaborates with science teachers in Kansas schools, I affirm that the Kansas College and Career Ready Standards for Science establish a vision for science education that leads our education system for current and future challenges and opportunities. I have been working with science teachers in revising science courses and instruction that is informed by current research on science teaching and learning represents best practices. Nearly every school district in my region is actively engaged in improving their science programs to align with our new Standards.

It would be a significant step backwards to return to the 2009 Kansas Science Standards, which have led to assessments that emphasize coverage of low-level content at the expense of promoting deep understanding of core science concepts, the development of science and engineering practices, and the application of major cross-cutting themes that are requisite for citizens in the 21st century to be college and career ready. Within the context of concerns about stagnate economic growth and competitiveness, it is of paramount importance that Kansas set high standards for education in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) if we are to retain and attract new business and industry to our State. The roll back from the Kansas College and Career Ready Standards for Science to the 2009 Kansas Standards for Science would signal that Kansas disagrees with the need for a well-prepared STEM workforce.

Sincerely,

James D. Ellis, PhD

Science Teacher Educator

The University of Kansas