

STATE OF NEBRASKA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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Mike Johanns
Governor

December 24, 2002

Doug Christensen
Commissioner of Education
Nebraska Department of Education
301 Centennial Mall South
Lincoln, NE 68509

RE: Title 92, NAC, Chapter 10 - Appendix C (Science Content Standards)

Dear Doug:

I have approved the above-referenced regulations proposed by your agency and have filed these with the Nebraska Secretary of State. As you know, the evolution theory section of the proposed science content standards generated controversy amongst several organizations and individuals. I have been made aware of your commitment at the State Board of Education's public meeting on adoption of these regulations to provide further technical and implementation guidance to our public school superintendents regarding this provision of the science standards. I also appreciate the State Board of Education's position that the science standards allow local districts and teachers the academic freedom to present and discuss arguments for and against the Darwinian theory of evolution rather than mandate the "teaching of" one particular evolutionary theory.

I would appreciate you providing my office with any further materials or guidance that your agency provides to Nebraska public schools on this matter. This would be helpful to me in addressing citizen inquiries on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Johanns".

Mike Johanns
Governor

cc: Governor's Policy Research Office