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Professor (Emeritus) Lyle H. Jensen
Fellow, American Association for the Advancement of Science
Member, American Academy of the Arts and Sciences
Department of Biological Structures and Department of Biochemistry, University of Washington

The Ohio Department of Education
25 South Front St.
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: Critical Analysis of Evolution Lesson Plan

Dear Ohio State Board of Education,

As a concerned scientist, a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and a member of the American Academy of the Arts and Sciences, I would like to make known to the Board my support for Ohio's Critical Analysis of Evolution Lesson Plan.

The primary purpose of science education is to inform students about the actual nature of this world. But students are rarely given the opportunity to learn about scientific discoveries which challenge evolution, and the lack of evidence supporting the core claims of Neo-Darwinism. Indeed, conspicuously lacking from scientific journals today are explanations for the ability of evolution to create new genetic information that leads to novel biological functions. If we teach that Neo-Darwinism is a fully satisfactory account of the diversification of all life on earth and fail to mention the notable scientific dissent from that position, students will be misinformed about the evidence.

Students must also be given the critical thinking skills necessary to excel as scientists. Requiring students to critically analyze the evidence for and against Neo-Darwinism will prepare them not only to understand current scientific debates, but will train them to become scientists capable of solving important questions facing our world.

Biological evolution is an influential theory concerning which students should be informed. While students should surely learn about the scientific strengths of evolution, they should also have the opportunity to learn about scientific weaknesses with the theory. I strongly urge you to retain the Critical Analysis of Evolution Lesson Plan so that Ohio students are objectively informed concerning the facts of biology and trained to be better scientists.

Cordially,

Professor (Emeritus) Lyle H. Jensen
Fellow, American Association for the Advancement of Science
Member, American Academy of Arts and Sciences
Department of Biological Structure and Department of Biochemistry
University of Washington
Former Researcher, The Ohio State University