



January 25, 2008

*... to promote and support
all aspects of effective
science teaching ...*

The Honorable Tom Torlakson
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5050
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1097 -SUPPORT

Dear Senator Torlakson:

The California Science Teachers Association (CSTA) strongly supports your bill, SB 1097, requiring the review and revision, as necessary, of the K-12 academic content standards. Although similar bills have been introduced in the past and have been vetoed by the governor, we believe that a strong case can be made for the necessity of revising the standards at this time.

In the area of science, our teachers are teaching, and our students are learning, standards that are now 10 years old. However, because of the way the state's calendar for adopting instructional materials is constructed, if the standards are not revised prior to the adoption of a new science framework and instructional materials criteria in 2010, the instructional materials that will be adopted based on those criteria and those 1998 standards will be in use until 2018, *fully 20 years after the standards were adopted*. We doubt that any Californian would want our students to be taught science content that is 20 years old. Already absent from the current standards are all the new developments in biotechnology and environmental education; imagine what *won't* be taught in science by the year 2018.

CSTA stands ready to assist you in any way to pass this legislation and to see that it is enacted into law. Please let us know how we can help.

Sincerely,

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