



November 5, 2004

Ms. Ruth E. Green, President
California State Board of Education
1430 N Street, Room 5111
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Sir or Madam:

Associated Builders and Contractors of California opposes the selection of Applicant #31 to the History-Social Science Instructional Material Advisory Panel.

This educational advisory panel needs to work independently of special interest groups intent on using the public schools to advance their political agendas. As a member of the California Federation of Teachers' Labor in the Schools Committee, Applicant #31 is a prominent advocate of advancing the political agenda of labor unions through the public schools. The applicant's "Collective Bargaining Education Project" and "Workplace Issues and Collective Bargaining in the Classroom" provide role playing and simulation of union organizing campaigns and "confront" free trade zones and globalization.

In the past two years, the California Federation of Teachers has sponsored several bills in the state legislature that would pressure the California Board of Education to insert "labor history" from a union perspective into the public school curriculum. All of these bills failed. Now the Labor in the Schools Committee plans to use the history-social studies curriculum and standards development process to achieve this end. Applicant #31 is a likely agent for this plan.

Associated Builders and Contractors of California is concerned that free enterprise and capitalism will be maligned in California's public schools if unions insert biased instructional materials into the curriculum. Unless the Board of Education decides to create a balance by appointing open advocates of free market economics as members of this advisory committee, Applicant #31 would be an inappropriate selection to the committee. Please keep union politics out of the classroom.

Sincerely,

Matt Tennis
Legislative Director

CC: Members, California State Board of Education
Ms. Debra Franklin, State Board of Education
Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger