

## **Statement: Jimmy Carter on Evolution**

Read the full statement from former U.S. President and Georgia native Jimmy Carter regarding a proposal in January 2004 to remove the word evolution from textbooks in Georgia's public schools, as submitted from The Carter Center:

"As a Christian, a trained engineer and scientist, and a professor at Emory University, I am embarrassed by Superintendent Kathy Cox's attempt to censor and distort the education of Georgia's students. Her recommendation that the word "evolution" be prohibited in textbooks will adversely effect the teaching of science and leave our high school graduates with a serious handicap as they enter college or private life where freedom of speech will be permitted."

"Nationwide ridicule of Georgia's public school system will be inevitable if this proposal is adopted, and additional and undeserved discredit will be brought on our excellent universities as our state's reputation is damaged."

"All high school science teachers, being college graduates, have studied evolution as a universal element of university curricula, and would be under pressure to suppress their own educated beliefs in the classroom."

"The existing and long-standing use of the word "evolution" in our state's textbooks has not adversely affected Georgians' belief in the omnipotence of God as creator of the universe. There can be no incompatibility between Christian faith and proven facts concerning geology, biology, and astronomy. There is no need to teach that stars can fall out of the sky and land on a flat earth in order to defend our religious faith."

"Fortunately, it is the responsibility of the State Board of Education to make the final decision on the superintendent's ill-advised proposal."

Source: The Carter Center

***- Oklahomans for Excellence in Science Education***