

# Hindu Education Foundation

<http://www.hinduEducation.org>

Dr. Ruth Green  
President, State Board of Education,  
Sacramento, CA

Jan 11, 2006

Sub: Sixth Grade Textbook Review

CC: **Secretary Alan Bersin, Ms. Glee Johnson, Tom Adams and Ms. Sue Stickel**

Dear Ruth Green:

Greetings and Happy New Year.

Hindu Education Foundation re-iterates the displeasure of Hindu-American parents and community members throughout California over the State Board of Education's re-evaluation of already approved changes related to portrayal of Hinduism and Ancient India in 6<sup>th</sup> grade textbooks. It is unfortunate that despite our objections, SBE had invited Dr. Witzel who had not only shown antiHindu bias but had also shown his prejudice against the changes by initiating a petition against the changes. We request the SBE to discontinue utilization of Dr. Witzel and other signatories of that petition as consultants. Those persons can still provide their views and comments just like any other member of the public. However, it ought to be noted that such comments should be treated in parity with any such comments that came in a very late stage of the review process. In our opinion, SBE may have a precedence of rejecting such late submission.

From the reports of the meeting, it appears that Dr. Bajpai and Dr. Witzel arrived at consensus over most of the issues. However, there remained deadlocks over number of issues. In case of deadlock on edits and correction items, we request SBE accept the decisions either of Curriculum Commission on Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2005 or of the ad-hoc committee meeting on Oct 31<sup>st</sup> 2005. We request you to accept Dr. Bajpai's legitimate position because he is an historian, where Prof. Witzel is a linguist and philologist. Additionally Dr. Bajpai, being a practicing Hindu, understands concerns of Hindu community about issues of Hinduism and Indian culture while Dr. Witzel does not.

We request the SBE to release the decisions/consensus over corrections on Hinduism at the earliest opportunity. Those details are essential for HEF to either support (accept) or provide further justifications.

We also request SBE to consider our pending on basis of concurring edits and corrections.

Thank you,

Prof. B. P. Lathi  
Advisor

Khanderao Kand  
Coordinator

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