

To whom it may concern,

I've been licensed as a RPLS for 32 years. The state of the profession was not good even then and I have seen it in a continuous decline throughout these years. Like so many others, I have loved this profession and am proud to be a surveyor however it is becoming more and more difficult to continue making a living in it. We operate our own business and because of the rampant corruption of unscrupulous surveyors generating grossly inferior boundary surveys at rates that cannot possibly be performed properly, the cost, and quality, of these surveys has been driven down to a point that anyone trying to perform boundary surveys correctly cannot afford to stay in business. Check the records, the numbers are dwindling. It is also no surprise that few young people are entering the profession since it is difficult to get licensed and the profession does not pay well. To complicate matters, it is expensive to run a surveying company and is certainly not worth the high risk.

Surveyors that perform engineering or construction work are not as affected and technically do not even need a license. This type of work is not why the Board of Land Surveying exists, it's to protect the public for boundary surveying. I feel that the TBPLS is dominated by mostly engineering and construction people and does not adequately represent boundary surveyors. Perhaps these people should be regulated by the Board of Engineers.

Also the real estate industry, particularly mortgage companies, title companies and realtors, have contributed in driving down the price of surveys since apparently quality is of little concern to them. If inferior surveys are to be allowed, they should be performed by someone other than surveyors, referred to as something else, like mortgage inspections, and be regulated by a different authority, maybe the Real Estate Commission.

I have firsthand knowledge that there are surveying companies that use field technicians employed as independent contractors performing field work for jobs sent to them electronically anywhere in Texas, not working out of a local office and unsupervised by a licensed surveyor, sending the field work back electronically to a drafting group where the drawing is prepared with an electronic stamp and delivered to the client without proper review by the licensed surveyor. This practice must be stopped to protect the public and save the profession.

One way that this practice can at least be exposed is to require that all surveys must display a survey number automatically assigned by the board through a website in which the surveyor submits certain information about the survey like the surveyor's name and license number, and location information, like the County, the street address and a brief legal description of the survey which is recorded in a database in which a report can be generated by anyone through the website. This method can easily show the location of the surveyor's office and the location and number of surveys being certified by each licensed surveyor.

So, now you have engineering and construction surveyors regulated by the Board of Engineers, boundary surveyors regulated by the Board of Boundary Surveying and, if allowed, boundary inspectors regulated by the Real Estate Commission.

I greatly appreciate the opportunity to voice my opinion to the Sunset Commission and think this is a very necessary process to protect the public for all regulated professions.

I have decided to submit this letter anomalously because of fear of retribution by the board.

Thank you from a concerned surveyor.