

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Brittany Calame](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Thursday, August 16, 2018 3:42:56 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: sunset@sunset.texas.gov <sunset@sunset.texas.gov> On Behalf Of Texas Sunset Commission
Sent: Thursday, August 16, 2018 3:36 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission <Sunset@sunset.texas.gov>
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Agency: TEXAS BOARD PROFESSIONAL GEOSCIENTISTS TBPG

First Name: Lui

Last Name: Barkkume

Title: Environmental Consultant and Professional Geologist

Organization you are affiliated with: Arkose Environmental, Inc.

Email:

City: The Colony

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or
Opposed:

Opposed: I am strongly opposed to the recommendation to abolish the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists.

How can having a program like TBPG that requires a specific type and amount of education, continued education including annual courses in ethics, as well as the competence, skill and accountability expected of a professional in the field of Geoscience not a Public Benefit?

I am a TBPG licensed Professional Geoscientist in the field of Geology and a small business owner in the State of Texas. My company is a licensed Texas Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) and a NCTRCA certified minority business enterprise (MBE). My business maintains a license with the TBPG as a Geoscience Firm.

My small business is an environmental consulting firm that provides a wide array of services that directly affect public human health and environment both short and long term. The bulk of our clientele require licensure including the TBPG licensing and our small business would be crippled or potential shut down without it. Financial institutions, real estate developers and other private businesses would seek and utilize businesses outside the State of Texas with licensure comparable to that of the TBPG; thereby crippling our local economy in various industries where a TBPG license is applicable.

Licensure by a State Agency, like TBPG, is subject to transparency and able to conduct enforcement. A private certification agency would not have the same level of transparency and enforcement.

The TBPG is more than an agency that requires an annual renewal fee to maintain licensing/certification. They provide a resource for information, news, legislation, continued education opportunities, and other pertinent guidance in our professional field of expertise. The TBPG has a strict Code of Professional Conduct with the potential for disciplinary actions and enforcement, including fines and loss of licensing, for those do not follow the

code.

As stated on the TBPG website "About" page:

"Much of today's geological practice impacts engineered works, the health, safety, and welfare of the public, and the environment.... Inadequate and incompetent practice by a geologist can cause loss of life or property and can be expensive because of the need to redo work. Licensing by individual states helps provide protection for the public by establishing minimum standards in the discipline that individuals wishing to practice must meet and maintain." - Quote from John W. Williams, Professor and Chair, Dept. of Geology, San Jose State University, Past President of the National Association of State Boards of Geology, Past President of the Association of Engineering Geologists, excerpt taken from GSA Today, June 2001.

That quote resonates with me and it should do the same for others. There have been too many incidents where human health and environment were impacted when inadequate, incompetent, and/or unethical individuals that were not held to the standards and accountability of those licensed by the TBPG were hired to complete a job they were not qualified for.

Regarding the relatively high percentage of "Grandfathered" licensees, this is not unusual. It is not uncommon for a licensing or certifying agency to begin with a set of requirements that effectively grandfather in existing professionals. Those standards are expected to increase and become more stringent with time and consideration. The TBPG also requires ALL licensees, including those grandfathered in, to attend and maintain a record of annual continuing education courses, seminars, and other continuing education activities relevant to the practice of a discipline of geoscience as well as an annual course in ethics. ALL licenses are required to adhere to the same standards and accountability; grandfathered or not.

By the Sunset Commission's own evaluation, the TBPG is self-funded and provides additional revenue to the General Revenue Fund. Why would the Sunset Commission not want a self-funded agency that provides and regulates qualified professionals and businesses? It also generates income and clientele for Texas businesses, which provide jobs within the State of Texas and prevents job loss to out-of-state businesses and personnel.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Please don't abolish the TBPG.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree