

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Brittany Calame](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Wednesday, August 15, 2018 7:58:02 AM

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

From: sunset@sunset.texas.gov <sunset@sunset.texas.gov> On Behalf Of Texas Sunset Commission
Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 6:59 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: Craig

Last Name: Bennett

Title: Principal Geologist

Organization you are affiliated with: Bullock, Bennett & Associates, LLC

Email:

City: Bertram

State: Texas

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

My name is Craig Bennett, Texas-licensed Professional Geoscientist No. 1205.

I am opposed to the recommendation of the Sunset Commission that the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists (TBPG) be abolished.

As a PG, I routinely evaluate potential residential development projects to evaluate availability of sufficient and safe drinking water. By sealing and certifying these projects, I provide protection to the public from unknowingly purchasing property where ample, clean water is unavailable. My PG seal on a groundwater availability report certifies that I am both qualified and responsible to make a determination regarding the water supply for their future home.

Imagine buying acreage and building your dream home only to find out after the water well was installed, noxious odors and flammable gas continuously emitted from the faucets and shower. Before PG licensure in Texas, I personally evaluated the groundwater supply of many consumers directly in their homes where their water was highly contaminated. Methane gas and hydrogen sulfide gas were present in their groundwater at levels exceeding human-health thresholds. With the establishment of the TBPG, I can now certify that the well water will be plentiful and clean before a family purchases a lot or breaks ground.

Additionally, I frequently evaluate industrial waste disposal units. Such projects require that I evaluate pathways that may lead to the exposure of the general public to possible hazardous levels of contamination, and propose measures to guard against public exposure. The proposed actions in the PG-sealed report are protective of human health and the environment. My PG licensure signifies to both the public and the TCEQ that I am qualified to make these determinations.

The establishment and administration of the TBPG by the State of Texas directly allows the State to continue to

apply standards for PG licensure that are pertinent and cost-effective. TBPG criteria for licensure address formal education, professional training, and ongoing continuing education requirements; all necessary to ensure that the citizenry of Texas is protected against shoddy practices that can lead to unabated, harmful environmental and public health conditions. Alternate certifications of geologists by a multitude of outside, third-party organizations lead to the application of inconsistent and varied criteria that are not in the best interest of Texas citizens. In contrast, with a State of Texas PG license issued directly by the TBPG, the qualifications of a PG are pertinent, clear, and concise.

The TBPG is self-funded by the regulated PG community, and I am pleased and proud to submit my yearly PG licensure renewal application and fee, just as I am pleased and proud to take my children to the local sporting goods store so that we can all purchase our hunting and fishing licenses. We all know that hunting and fishing licenses benefit the hunting and fishing public, and I can attest that PG licensure directly benefits the public as well.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: None

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree