

**From:** [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
**To:** [Brittany Calame](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 15, 2018 11:32:10 AM

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

From: sunset@sunset.texas.gov <sunset@sunset.texas.gov> On Behalf Of Texas Sunset Commission  
Sent: Wednesday, August 15, 2018 11:18 AM  
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: Dawn

Last Name: Bissell

Title: Geoscientist

Organization you are affiliated with: Advent Geoscience Consulting, LLC

Email:

City: Corpus Christi

State: Texas

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

I do NOT think the Texas Geoscience Practice Act should be repealed.

While my geoscience consulting practice does not interact with the public in any way and it is more of a hassle for me at this point in my practice to comply with the TBPG registration/renewal guidelines, there is still value in a licensing board for many areas of geoscience practice. The environmental, ground water, and coastal studies areas are some that do directly affect and interact with public safety.

There is also value in states reciprocity practices that can benefit an even larger segment of Texas geoscientists. My major complaint with the TBPG is their general 'adversarial' attitude towards geoscientists. As the Executive Summary states: "The board itself initiates 89 percent of complaints, mostly for low-risk, administrative violations. The board has never received a complaint that posed significant harm or risk to the public even though it has worked with other agencies and political subdivisions . . ." This policing action by the TBPG creates this adversarial atmosphere.

My other complaint with the TBPG is the increasing and confusing dues/fees structure. Again, as the Executive summary states, TBPG is a money maker for the state. While it's not a large amount of money in the big picture, should the state really be making money off what amounts to individual geoscience practitioners? I've heard many a geoscientist call it a geology tax.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

An alternative for the TBPG is to change its attitude toward practicing geoscientists in Texas to more of a partnership versus a policing approach.

It can also lower the dues.

Maybe the TBPG doesn't need to exist as it is currently embodied, but the Texas Geoscience Practice Act does need to stay in place, be reviewed in light of the changing technical and business environments, and administered in an effective manner. Whether it is administered by the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists, the TCEQ, or the Railroad Commission, the Texas Geoscience Practice Act is valuable to the state of Texas.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree