

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Brittany Calame](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Wednesday, August 8, 2018 9:40:13 AM

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

From: sunset@sunset.texas.gov <sunset@sunset.texas.gov> On Behalf Of Texas Sunset Commission
Sent: Wednesday, August 8, 2018 9:15 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: Mark

Last Name: Bronston

Title: Director of Exploration

Organization you are affiliated with: Legends Exploration, LP

Email:

City: Houston

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or
Opposed:
August 8, 2018

Texas Sunset Commission

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing this note in response to request for comments from the community regarding the recommendation of your commission to dissolve the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists.

I have been a Licensed Geophysicist (#3663) since the inception of the TBPG, specifically since August 31, 2003. I am involved and employed exclusively in the oil and gas industry. My original motivation to pursue licensing was because there are occasions when I have to appear before the General Land Office or the Railroad Commission to discuss the formation of unit boundaries, proration, etc. I assumed that at some point I would be required to be licensed in order to testify before these State of Texas agencies. This has not proven to be the case.

The activities that I am engaged in are not related to public safety or construction codes like my colleagues that work in conjunction with civil engineers on foundations, water projects, and hydrologic studies. These activities are rightly subject to rigorous engineering review and scrutiny because they do effect the health and safety of the public. A solution to the oversight of geoscientists that work in these practice areas might be to create a separate licensing entity within the organization that licenses civil engineers.

One of the primary arguments in favor of creating this board was to establish a forum that would establish and monitor ethical standards in the geoscience community. Over the 15 year lifetime of the TBPG this has really not been proven to be an issue according to your own analysis. In fact, any issues with ethics should probably be

adjudicated within the numerous geoscience professional societies, e.g., the AAPG, SEG, etc. that exist, in part, for that purpose.

In summary, as a geoscientist and oil and gas professional I concur with the analysis of the Texas Sunset Commission that the TBPG does not have a compelling mission that would justify the maintenance of staff and offices at the expense of the geoscience community specifically and the taxpayers generally. I agree that the TBPG should be dissolved at the end of the next fiscal year per your recommendation.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Bronston, Ph.D.
Houston, Texas

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: The regulation of geoscientists involved in construction, foundation, and hydrologic activities should be regulated by the Texas Board of Professional Engineers as a separate category for that purpose. I agree with the recommendation of the Texas Sunset Commission that the TBPG should be dissolved at the end of the next fiscal year.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree