

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Brittany Calame](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Monday, August 13, 2018 4:03:20 PM

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

From: sunset@sunset.texas.gov <sunset@sunset.texas.gov> On Behalf Of Texas Sunset Commission
Sent: Monday, August 13, 2018 2:52 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: Dillon

Last Name: Bybee

Title: Geologist, Graduate Research Assistant

Organization you are affiliated with: Hydrex Environmental, Stephen F. Austin State University, American Institute of Professional Geologists

Email:

City: Nacogdoches

State: Texas

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

As an East Texas resident, aspiring Professional Geoscientist employed by a local company (Hydrex Environmental), Graduate Research Assistant with the Stephen F. Austin State University (SFASU) Geology Department, and member of the American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG), I find the recommendations of the Sunset Advisory Commission, regarding the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists (TBPG), very troubling. Adherence to professional standards by practicing geoscientists is essential to preserving public health, safety, and welfare (including the public's financial welfare). In response to the Sunset Advisory Commission Staff Report, I would like to provide a few examples of my experiences observing Professional Geoscientists providing services that directly benefit residents of the great State of Texas.

Qualified geoscientists analyze aquifers to determine the suitability and availability of public drinking water supply. This is especially important in our East Texas communities where many of us live in rural or micropolitan settings. At Hydrex Environmental, I have worked alongside Professional Geoscientists to identify and quantify quality groundwater so that local municipalities, groundwater conservation districts, and utility companies throughout East Texas can utilize their water resources in the most cost effective manner.

Professional Geoscientists collaborate with engineers and professionals in various industries to identify subsurface geological features. I have observed Professional Geoscientists assist local oil and gas companies with locating water resources and performing geochemical analyses as it pertains to hydraulic fracturing activities. Additionally, waste disposal companies utilize the unique expertise of Professional Geoscientist to identify subsurface faults and design groundwater monitoring systems for solid, toxic, nuclear and hazardous waste disposal facilities. The Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) utilizes the skillset of a Professional Geoscientist when dealing with environmental issues and the possibility of road failure in areas of complex near-surface geology. The expertise of a Professional Geoscientist is necessary to fully understand these intricate issues and protect the public from the

associated risks.

Additionally, the TBPG is not a burden on the taxpayer. The TBPG is self funded and had an excess revenue of \$234,381 in the 2017 fiscal year.

Currently, I am in the process of obtaining my Geoscientist-in-Training (GIT) certification and seek to become a Professional Geoscientist once I meet the TBPG's requirements. I envision myself joining the next generation of Professional Geoscientists that can continue and improve upon our predecessors' efforts to apply geologic principles to benefit the public.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: The TBPG can address the Sunset Advisory Commission's concerns by increasing enforcement measures.

Also, reviewing the exempt status of individuals practicing geoscience without a license is recommended.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree