

May 5, 2016

Sunset Advisory Commission
P.O. Box 13066
Austin, Texas 78711

To Whom It May Concern:

At this time in our state history we find another opportunity to make state government more efficient through the elimination of the Texas Railroad Commission. The Sunset Advisory Commission has consistently found that organizations that have outlived their ability to serve the citizens of our state or that perform function that duplicate the work of other agencies (or could be taken on by other agencies) should be decommissioned so that the essential functions and structures of state government work better for all of our residents.

The Texas Railroad Commission was originally created with the intent of regulating the oversized and very influential railroad industry for the protection of the agrarian communities that dominated the Texas landscape. That initial function has long since been passed on to other state agencies. Today their role in regulating the trucking industry, the transport of oil and natural gas, and other similar operations have led to confusion about the role of the organization among voters and an unfortunate obfuscation of the organization as a whole.

The taxpayers would also benefit from the alleviation of the associated costs of maintaining this out-of-date agency such as the cost of elections for these offices (including runoffs), the salaries of commissioners, and other personnel whose positions are duplicated by those in agencies where the responsibilities would be combined.

As a taxpaying citizen and consistent voter I believe that my interests and those of all citizens of our great state are best served by disbanding the commission and passing on responsibilities to agencies which are already suited to managing these types of responsibilities. Bringing an end to the commission would bring clarity to an area of state government that has long held confusion for the voters and which has outlived its need for existence. There are other agencies in the state government which are already suited to taking on the responsibilities of the commission and who can take on management of these duties with minimal disruption to current operations.

For the sake of the taxpayers and more transparent efficient government I ask the members of the Sunset Advisory Commission to allow the Texas Railroad Commission to expire and combine their responsibilities with existing state organizations.

Respectfully,



Cory Colby