

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Elizabeth Jones](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Sunday, December 13, 2020 8:44:38 PM

From: sunset@sunset.texas.gov On Behalf Of Texas Sunset Commission
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 8:44:29 PM (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada)
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Agency: TEXAS COMMISSION FIRE PROTECTION

First Name: Victor

Last Name: Conley

Title: Fire Chief

Organization you are affiliated with: Irving Fire Department

Email: vconley@cityofirving.org

City: Irving

State: Texas

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

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

- The Texas Commission on Fire Protection (TCFP) currently serves as the state regulatory agency that oversees Career, Combination, and Volunteer Fire Departments
- The TCFP is currently under review by the Sunset Advisory Commission
- Recommendations are made to the Texas Legislature to continue TCFP and/or adopt the Sunset Commission statutory recommendations

To date, Fire Chiefs from the largest 25 Fire Departments in the state of Texas have joined together to alert the Sunset Advisory Commission and the Texas State Legislature of the following issues related to the Texas Commission on Fire Protection:

- The make-up of the Texas Commission on Fire Protection is primarily dominated by smaller, volunteer fire departments with little or no representation from the largest Fire Departments in the state of Texas (40% of the state's population)
- The Commission is primarily charged with the adoption and enforcement of standards for career fire departments of all sizes but is dominated by the influence of smaller and volunteer fire departments
- Many decisions made by the TCFP are implemented with little or no input,

or consideration of the impacts, from larger Texas Fire Departments

- Volunteer fire departments are not required to follow the rules and standards established by the Commission
- Regulations made by the TCFP have a significant financial impact on tax payers of larger Texas Fire Departments and minimal impact on volunteer departments

The Commission has long served as a “rubber stamp” for the Fire Fighter Advisory Committee. The Fire Fighter Advisory (like the TCFP) is made up of primarily smaller and volunteer departments with no representation from the Fire Chiefs of the largest Fire Departments in the state of Texas. During the last Sunset evaluation, the Sunset Advisory Committee recommended that the Fire Firefighter Advisory Committee be abolished.

recommendations:

- Restructure the Texas Commission of Fire Protection so that Larger Municipalities have a weighted representation or sunset the Texas Commission of Fire Protection all together.
- Eliminate the Fire Fighter Advisory Committee

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree