

17 October 2014

Mr. Ken Levine
Director
Sunset Advisory Commission
P.O. Box 13066, Austin, TX 78711
Phone: (512) 463-1300 Fax: (512) 463-0705
email address: sunset@sunset.state.tx.us



Dallas Lighthouse
for the Blind
focus on opportunity

RE: Comments on the Sunset Staff Report for the Texas Council on Purchasing from People with Disabilities (TCPPD), October 2014

Dear Mr. Levine:

Please allow this letter to express to you the importance that TIBH Industries, the Texas Council and the State Use Program plays in our ability to provide independence, empowerment and personal satisfaction for the people we employ who are blind and visually impaired.

The TIBH and Texas Council organizations have done an outstanding job of bringing new opportunities and customers to us. During the past two years, had it not been for the Texas State Use Program, the impact of the Federal Government's sequestration and shut down would have devastated the majority of lighthouse agencies operating in the State of Texas.

The efforts of TIBH's and the Council have been vital to our survival as an agency of over 220 people, as the federal government reorganizes itself and adjusts its distribution systems. Without the State Use program, our agency would have been in a more dire condition last year and more employees would have lost their jobs. Conversely, we know we offer great products and services to the Texas State customers served through the State Use Program.

We appreciate the direction and assistance that TIBH provides us on a daily basis through State Wide Marketing to State Agencies, Compliance Seminars, Product Development, and Service Contracts.

The method by which TIBH and the Committee for People of Disabilities administers the program is both fair and equitable. We see no reason to change the system as it exists today and have serious concerns about having this process handled differently. The consistency we depend upon in terms of decision making will be disrupted if the Texas Council / TIBH system is reorganized.

We know that the Texas State Use Program, and the TIBH organization, is the envy of the nation. No other state in the U.S.A. has a program that can approach the structure or effectiveness of Texas' State Use Program. Fred Weber and his team are frequently called upon by others to provide examples of how they have managed their operation, with the hope of repeating TIBH's success elsewhere. In conjunction with the Texas Council, we enjoy a partnership that serves the State and its blind citizens very well.

We know that our own organization provides quality products at competitive prices. The 'extras' for customers in Texas who utilize the State Use program, are that purchases support employment of worthy, capable citizens who are typically overlooked as employable and their employment reduces subsidies that would otherwise add to the tax burden. Assuring that all citizens are as productive as possible benefits the 'commonwealth' of Texas. Our State Use Program, assures that more citizens will have opportunity.

Dallas Lighthouse
for the Blind, Inc.
4306 Capitol Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75204
ph: 214-821-2375
fx: 214-823-6339
dallaslighthouse.org

ISO 9001:2008 Certified

An affiliate of the United Way
of Metropolitan Dallas
since 1941.

Mr. Ken Levine
Director
Sunset Advisory Commission

Dallas Lighthouse
for the Blind
focus on opportunity

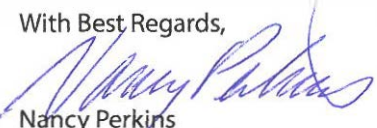
RE: Comments on the Sunset Staff Report for the Texas Council on Purchasing from People with Disabilities (TCPPD), October 2014

It is with great excitement that we look forward to continuing to partner with TIBH and the Texas Council in the expansion of the State Use Program through employment of people with disabilities who will benefit from its foresight and vision.

In the opinion of our agency, we do not support the key recommendations of the Sunset Staff Report. We do support keeping the Council and the Program intact and making whatever improvements that will enable the Texas Council and TIBH to continue the important work and service they provide to the State - its customers and citizens. We believe that Texans deserve to have this program be the model of the nation.

Thank you for your commitment on behalf of our current and future employees!

With Best Regards,



Nancy Perkins
President and CEO



Doug Jones
Vice President, Sales and Marketing



Terry Peterson
Vice President, Finance