

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Brittany Calame](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Wednesday, August 15, 2018 4:43:29 PM

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

From: sunset@sunset.texas.gov <sunset@sunset.texas.gov> On Behalf Of Texas Sunset Commission
Sent: Wednesday, August 15, 2018 4:14 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: Sarah

Last Name: Decoteau

Title: Staff Geologist

Organization you are affiliated with: Halff Associates

Email:

City: Dallas

State: Texas

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

This is a formal notification of full opposition to the Sunset Advisory Commission Staff Report which recommends the abolishment of the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists. Upon review of the Staff Report, significant concerns were noted as a young geologist in the environmental profession.

The Staff Report stated that more direct oversight of geoscientists' work is provided by other state agencies. Furthermore, Appendix B stated that the Sunset staff interviewed staff from the TCEQ (among other agencies) when conducting this evaluation. As a former employee of a municipal government discipline, I find it extremely difficult to believe anyone at the TCEQ would indicate that they had the staff resources, financial resources, or that all of the staff have the educational background to provide more direct oversight to geoscientists' work. The current review time for documentation submitted to the TCEQ is approximately six months or more. The TCEQ lacks the time and resources to verify that the reports are completed ethically or that the data provided is legitimate. The TCEQ relies on professional geoscientists to provide complete, ethical, and accurate data. The TCEQ is able to rely upon the professional geoscientist because the TBPG has ensured that the professional has the educational background, continuing education, and ethics required to complete the Risk-Based Assessment. By abolishing the TBPG, you would be promoting the completion of non-professional, unethical assessments, and endangering the public health and environment in doing so.

As a developing young professional, the future environmental condition of Texas is especially concerning considering the possible de-regulating of the professional geoscientists would allow someone without the educational background or ethical oversight to complete Risk-Based Assessments, which poses a serious threat to public health. To ensure public health and environmental protection, I recommend the continuation of the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: To ensure public health and environmental protection,

I recommend the continuation of the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree