

**From:** [Elizabeth Jones](#)  
**To:** [Trisha Linebarger](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 29, 2020 5:08:44 PM

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From: sunset@sunset.texas.gov On Behalf Of Texas Sunset Commission  
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2020 4:51:28 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 ANIMAL HEALTH COMMISSION

First Name: Katy

Last Name: Fendrich-Turner

Title:

Organization you are affiliated with:

Email:

City: Austin

State: Texas

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

I agree with Sunset staff that TAHC needs to strengthen and improve the consistency of its investigation and enforcement activities across its six regions.

I agree with Sunset that TAHC needs to address issues with its penalty matrix so the State can ensure consistent enforcement statewide.

I agree with Sunset that TAHC needs to be able to appoint advisory committees for rulemaking processes, instead of using informal working groups closed to the citizens of Texas.

I agree with Sunset's recommendation to correct the unbalanced membership of the agency's 'working groups.' Sunset pointed out TAHC repeatedly appoints the biggest, most influential interest groups to its working groups without also inviting members the public or those not affiliated with the regulated industry.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

Sunset Staff Recommendations "Change in Statute" section neglects to address the unbalanced representation of the state policymaking body members.

The statutory authority under which the commission operates requires commission membership to include three public members and a member from each of the following industries: cattle raisers, dairy, equine, exotic livestock or fowl, feedlot, livestock marketing, poultry, sheep and goat, swine, and veterinary medicine. Currently, 75% (3 of 4) "public members" are affiliated with these very same regulated industries – Mike Vickers is a member of the Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association, Eric White is General Manager, YO Ranch Business Manager, S Ranch, and Jim Eggleston is an attorney representing the farm and ranch industry and general counsel for the Texas Longhorn Marketing Alliance.

As Sunset found, the agency referred only 0.7 percent of the 2,553 complaints closed in fiscal years 2018 and 2019 to local courts for criminal prosecution and there are repeat offenders. This agency staff needs direction on how to

refer more complaints to local courts for criminal prosecution, and how to effectively deal with repeat offenders since they are not doing either.

TAHC and the Texas Department of Agriculture need to be directed on what to do when animals are rejected at state animal export facilities. These agencies both need oversight and rulemaking about what is to happen to the cows, pigs, and horses rejected at state animal export facilities as the five privately-owned businesses will need to humanely euthanize these animals since, as the staff report states, “The livestock might be transported to another state or sold to an unsuspecting buyer, but more often, they are moved to a nearby location and remain.”

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree