

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Brittany Calame](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Tuesday, August 7, 2018 4:37:56 PM

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

From: sunset@sunset.texas.gov <sunset@sunset.texas.gov> On Behalf Of Texas Sunset Commission
Sent: Tuesday, August 7, 2018 2:39 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: John

Last Name: Ferguson

Title: President

Organization you are affiliated with: Nature's Way Resources

Email:

City: Conroe

State: Texas

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

I am a licensed PG in the area of soil science. In particular I work with urban horticulture and agriculture. Many people, companies, organizations, landscape architects, etc. are writing soil specifications to grow plants. They do not have a license and there has been no enforcement. These bad specifications for soils end up requiring massive amounts of fertilizer to work, which then leach and pollute our bayous and streams. The bad soils lead to sickly plants which then require large amounts of pesticides, fungicides, and other toxic chemicals that would not have been needed if a proper or higher quality soil had been used, and thus endanger human health. Many soil companies make claims about their products that have no truth or basis from soil science taking advantage of the average homeowner. A common joke in the soil industry is that the soil yards in and around Houston make used car salesmen look honest.

When plants from turf grass to flowers and vegetables that are grown in these poor soils, they require far more water than plants grown in good soil. Texas already has a water shortage and allowing this practice to continue hurts our overall economy and derails conservation efforts.

Other items used in urban landscapes include bottom ash from coal fired generating plants (very alkaline and often full of heavy metals) and using it to chemically burn bark mulches black. When applied to ones gardens these toxic chemicals wash off and into our soils and waterways. If food is being grown then these chemicals are absorbed by plants and end up in the food supply hurting human health.

A example of these problems is the large increase in cancer to children and pets whom play in grass or flowerbeds with these bad soils that led to the toxic products being used.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: The PG board need more enforcement power and the regulations clarified to prevent the above items from happening.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree