

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Brittany Calame](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Wednesday, August 15, 2018 3:46:48 PM

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

From: sunset@sunset.texas.gov <sunset@sunset.texas.gov> On Behalf Of Texas Sunset Commission
Sent: Wednesday, August 15, 2018 3:46 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: Hilary

Last Name: Johns

Title: Manager - Environmental Services

Organization you are affiliated with: Terracon Consultants, Inc.

Email:

City: Austin

State: Texas

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

I oppose the removal of the TBPG for numerous reasons:

- Licensure adds accountability/liability for PGs signing off on work, which ultimately results in a better product for the public and higher quality of these services in the market.
- Removal of licensure will allow for degradation of the market by introducing inferior service providers. This will result in a reduction in quality, a threat to public health and safety, and possibly increased costs to consumers via damages associated with poor quality work.
- Licensed geoscientists affect the public every day by working with/for the TCEQ, RRC, counties, school districts, and municipalities, as well as many clients in the private sector involved with projects that ultimately serve the public.
- I have been a geologist for over 40 years and I have observed the improvement in quality of geoscience work following PG licensure
- It should be noted that negative effects associated with poor geoscience work are inherently not as evident because of the time scale and other factors (e.g., an engineered building collapsing is more direct and observable than chronic health effects associated with public exposure to contaminated soil, groundwater, air).
- It should also be noted that the absence of catastrophic events, public harm, and serious enforcement violations could be the result of a functional and necessary agency and system. We are here to minimize or prevent these situations. The absence of them does not mean that we are not needed.
- Although the most important issue is public protection/welfare, the Review Committee should also consider the fact that the TBPG actually generates revenue for the state. We are therefore not only providing a necessary and valuable service, but are also generating revenue for the General Fund.
- It is difficult to conclude that the regulation of Geoscientists is really burdensome when it only takes 4-5 state employees, actually generates revenue, and has little negative

effect/burden on the public.

I firmly believe that the Texas State Geosciences Licensure program should remain - thank you

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Please retain the TBPG

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree