

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Brittany Calame](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Thursday, August 16, 2018 5:04:48 PM

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

From: sunset@sunset.texas.gov <sunset@sunset.texas.gov> On Behalf Of Texas Sunset Commission
Sent: Thursday, August 16, 2018 4:56 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: Rachel

Last Name: Kirkman

Title:

Organization you are affiliated with:

Email:

City: Greensboro

State: North Carolina

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

I am submitting this response to the Texas Sunset Advisory Commission August 2018 Sunset Staff Report recommending that the Texas Geoscience Practice Act be repealed and the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists (TBPG) be abolished. It is my understanding that the TBPG uses uniform examinations (i.e., ASBOG) to evaluate competency related to the practice of the geology profession. Without the TBPG in place, severe unintended consequences will occur.

It is important to have competent and ethical geologists providing various types of geological services to meet the needs of businesses, communities and individuals. The types of services performed in the public practice of geology impact the public's health, safety and welfare and have a large potential to impact the environment as well. Through professional licensure, minimum standards are required of practitioners, and any liability related to poor practice can be assessed and handled as needed through a formal reprimand process.

Alternatives to geologic licensure in Texas presented in the Sunset Commission Staff Report will negatively impact government at the local, regional and state level; private and public businesses and individuals; and geologic practitioners within and beyond Texas. Other national and local associations are not sufficient to provide professional oversight. Oversight by other governmental agencies will require additional budget and/or staff. No assurance of the minimum competence that comes with licensing means the liability for poor practice will fall back on the state and further, oversight does not equal enforcement. Nationwide, many businesses are aware of the skills, services, and knowledge which professional geoscientists offer, and they are demanding that licensure as an assurance for competent and ethical work. Absence of licensure in Texas could put Texas geoscientists and businesses at an economic disadvantage when seeking work in other states.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: I respectfully request that the Commission consider

retaining the current TBPG, strengthening its regulatory enforcement capabilities, and/or consider combining this Board with other similar professional boards to provide the necessary oversight enforcement.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree