

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Brittany Calame](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Wednesday, August 15, 2018 4:58:26 PM

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

From: sunset@sunset.texas.gov <sunset@sunset.texas.gov> On Behalf Of Texas Sunset Commission
Sent: Wednesday, August 15, 2018 4:57 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 TPG

First Name: R

Last Name: Kygar

Title:

Organization you are affiliated with:

Email:

City: Austin

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed: Abolishing the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists is short-sighted and will negatively impact the health and safety of future generations of Texans. Having worked at or with the two agencies noted as having 'oversight' of geoscience work, there is little to no accountability for data misrepresentation, unethical behavior, or substandard geoscience work in those agencies. A significant amount of geoscience work performed today directly impacts the public in unseen ways - geotechnical tests on subsurface conditions, discovery and mapping of subsurface features in preparation for major infrastructure projects (finding Inner Space Caverns while building IH-35), monitoring air quality related to oil and gas exploration, cleaning up subsurface releases of contaminants that significantly affects the value of property and affects the health of persons near the contamination, preserving wetlands and protecting wildlife from industrial contamination, ensuring Texans have access to safe, clean water, making sure there is enough water for agriculture and human consumption. All these activities lie outside the realm of other professions, they have a massive impact on the quality of life for current and future Texan, and the people responsible for performing, assessing and analyzing those activities should have a professional, ethical code they must adhere to, just as engineers must. Abolishing the Texas Professional Board of Geoscientists makes each and every Texan less safe each and every day, and diminishes our great state that relies so heavily on geological assets for its prosperity.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: The main reasons cited for abolishing the agency are the results of poor legislation and demonstrate a misunderstanding of how geoscience affects society. Any person or entity that represents it is performing geoscience, including within the arena of oil and gas exploration, should be subject to licensing requirements. The large number of oil and gas companies that function within Texas greatly affect the water and air quality of ALL Texans, and should be held responsible for the work they do in the state. They should also be held to the same ethics standards as engineers, surveyors, water well drillers, and other professionals who work on large projects that affect the public in general. Additionally, all persons that receive a Professional Geoscience license should be required to pass an exam that adequately tests their knowledge of the fundamental concepts and practical application of geology.

'Grandfathering' in a significant number of licensees with inadequate background knowledge of geology should not have been allowed. While many people that were 'grandfathered' in had degrees in geological sciences, several people were 'grandfathered' in without acceptable educational background or experience in the field, which led to the 'watering down' of the license, and the current recommendation to abolish the agency.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree