



August 15, 2018

VIA EMAIL: sunset@sunset.texas.gov

Sunset Advisory Commission

RE: Abolishment of Texas Board for Professional Geoscientists

Dear SAC Members:

I'm writing you not only as a citizen of the State of Texas but also as a Professional Geoscientist (P.G.) licensed in State of Texas (#4469), but as a P.G. or environmental Professional (CPG) in other states (Wyoming, Utah, Nevada and Arkansas) in support of keeping the State of Texas Board for Professional Geoscientists (TBPG) licensure program intact. As a small business owner (Larson & Associates, Inc.) in Midland, Texas, I employ graduate and undergraduate geoscientists that that realize the importance and benefits of the P.G. credential and have the a goal of obtaining the P.G. license in the State of Texas, which sets them apart from others that do not share the same ambition and goals. I have seen firsthand the difference of having a P.G. licensure program verses states without a licensure program. Work performed by a licensed P.G. that places a higher standard on protecting the welfare and environment for citizens of the state verses work performed by an individual or firm that has not been pre-qualified as a professional geoscientist through the Geologist-in-Training (GIT) program and eventual completion of the written ASBOG exam. There's the argument that a majority of individuals were grandfathered into the P.G. license by education and experience but this is also true for the State of Texas Board for Professional Engineers (P.E.) which granted P.E. licenses to many individuals through the grandfather process.

As a P.G., I certify work performed in the State of Texas is done to the highest standard for protecting the citizens, environment and resources of the State of Texas. I do not abuse this privilege by placing my signature and seal on work NOT performed under MY direct supervision or performing work outside my field of expertise, as with a P.E. It is through the state environmental regulatory agencies (RRC and TCEQ) that require environmental firms to have a licensed P.G. on staff to sign, seal and certify work was performed to the highest standard to protect the citizens, environmental and resources of the State of Texas. There are firms, I'm sure, that submit documents to the state environmental agencies without the signature and seal of a State of Texas licensed P.G., which violates the state environmental regulatory agency requirements.

I implore the Sunset Advisory Committee (SAC) to keep TBPG intact and require enforcement of TBPG rules and state environmental regulatory agency requirements for documents to be signed, sealed and certified by a State of Texas licensed P.G. You may contact me at (432) 687-0901 (office), (432) 556-8656 (cell) or mark@laenvironmental.com.

Respectfully

Larson & Associates, Inc.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark J. Larson', is written over a faint, circular blue stamp or seal.

Mark J. Larson, P.G.
President/Sr. Hydrogeologist
State of Texas P.G. 4469
mark@laenvironmental.com