

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Brittany Calame](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Wednesday, August 15, 2018 10:43:00 AM

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

From: sunset@sunset.texas.gov <sunset@sunset.texas.gov> On Behalf Of Texas Sunset Commission
Sent: Wednesday, August 15, 2018 10:22 AM
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: Paul

Last Name: Lavery

Title: Professional Geoscientist

Organization you are affiliated with:

Email:

City: Lafayette

State: Louisiana

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

Abolishing the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists is a grave mistake.

As a Professional Geoscientist, I collect important geoscientific data to support civil engineering design and construction. Very critical engineering calculations and design considerations are made based on the data I provide my clients. The stamp I put on my reports signifies that I have followed the stringent standards of geoscientific practice, that I am competent to be licensed, and that I stand behind my work. The stamp also allows for accountability in the event that something in the design fails due to incorrect assumptions from the geoscience report.

The SAC is missing a huge point here: The reason many geoscientists in Texas are not licensed is because they are working in the oil and gas sector, and are not required to be so (wrong if you ask me, considering the impact oil and gas could potentially have on drinking water in the case of an accident).

However, the oil and gas job opportunities for geoscientists are shrinking, and people such as myself are venturing into other industries to apply our geoscience skills in a valuable way. This goes well beyond hydrogeology. I manage a group that uses a diverse suite of geosensing technologies to build digital representations of the earth for engineering design. This absolutely requires a geoscience background, and since it directly impacts civil projects, it should absolutely be regulated. Allowing any untrained person to do so simply because they are skilled at marketing is irresponsible and will almost certainly result in an engineering design failure that will endanger the public. So to sum it up, as oil and gas shrinks, the population of working geoscientists will be working on civil projects that will directly impact public health and wealthfare. At this inflection point in the history of the profession, abolishing the regulatory body will eliminate the ability of the state to regulate the profession, just as the profession is really starting to impact civil projects.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: This agency needs to look into what else geoscientists

are doing with their skills that apply to civil projects, and expand the regulatory reach of their administration. This includes using the vast array of every developing geosensing technologies to help characterize project sites for civil projects. This absolutely needs to be regulated. Additionally, they need to spend more time and money enforcing the regulations.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree