

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Brittany Calame](#)
Subject: FW: Comments on Sunset Commission Plan to Abolish TBPG
Date: Friday, August 10, 2018 1:44:57 PM

From: Bob Lee
Sent: Friday, August 10, 2018 1:33 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission <Sunset@sunset.texas.gov>
Subject: Comments on Sunset Commission Plan to Abolish TBPG

The Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists and the licensing requirement for the practice of geoscience in Texas should not be abolished. If anything, it ought to be expanded into the petroleum industry where a lack of proper geological understanding can contribute to well blow-outs and other threats to public safety.

The statement that state regulation is unnecessary to protect the public is not true. The lack of complaints posing a significant public harm or risk is not a valid argument for abolishing the program. In fact it may well be evidence that the program is fulfilling its function.

Sound geoscience is necessary, among other reasons, to enable understanding the potential migration of contaminated groundwater to potential human and environmental receptors (e.g., water wells and sensitive ecological receptors.) Perhaps if licensing of geoscientists working in petroleum exploration and production was required, some blow-outs on gas wells which have adversely impacted public health and the environment could have been avoided.

As a geologist practicing in the state of Texas since 1981, including 7 years in petroleum exploration and production and more than 30 years in hydrogeology and environmental geology (and a Texas P.G. since 2003), I can state unequivocally that I have seen an improvement in the quality of geoscience work in the environmental field that I have reviewed since licensing was enacted.

Furthermore, the reciprocity Texas' program now has with other states which require licensing or registration helps those of us licensed in Texas to more readily work in those states. This contributes to Texas jobs and Texas tax revenues.

Thank you for your consideration.

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