



# Terrain Solutions, Inc.

Texas Geoscience Firm Reg.#50018

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Sunset Advisory Commission  
1501 North Congress, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Austin, Texas 78701

Re: Preliminary Staff Report to Abolish the Texas Geoscience Act

Dear Senator Birdwell, Rep. Chris Paddie and Members/Staff of the Sunset Commission:

I have been a practicing geoscientist for 28 years and licensed Professional Geoscientist for 15 years. I served as a member of the PG board six years appointed by Governor Perry. I voluntarily served because I believed that the practice of geoscience was important to protect human health and safety and wanted to have the Geoscience Act administered fairly.

The process to gain licensure of PGs was not easy – to convince geologists to voluntarily be governed was difficult. Convincing other sister professions such as engineering that this was not “grab” of their services was difficult and often needed negotiating as you point out in the report. But it is done in politics all the time. Now 15 years later, the members of those professions agree geoscience practice should be left to geoscientists.

**Every day** in my practice, we deal directly with the public and companies evaluating conditions that could adversely impact the safety and health of fellow Texans. From our visual analysis of faults and waste storage areas to the sampling & chemical analysis of groundwater, surface soils, unlabeled drums, we evaluate the risk to the nearby unsuspecting public. We often convince our clients to submit our findings to the regulatory agencies in such a manner that the data can be easily reviewed by the agency and evaluated knowing we, as professional geoscientists, vetted the data.

Look at today’s headlines. Environmental issues are often in the top 10 lists of voter’s concerns. To say that the environment is not important to merit assessment by government licensed professionals or that geoscience is not used in the evaluation of the environment is not correct. Our small company often finds ourselves privy to information about unreported adverse environmental conditions which has not even entered the radar of environmental regulatory agencies. We serve on the front lines to protect an uneducated public from the dangers. To say that the current manpower of regulatory bodies can adequately address all the environmental concerns, undervalues the importance of environmental assessment. Every additional educated and trained body is needed in the environmental arena from safe drinking water identification to risk assessment of chemical releases.

Environmental Site Assessments • Land Resources Evaluation  
Hydrogeology • Environmental Geology • Engineering Geology

Please reconsider the abolishment recommendation. While admittedly enforcement of the profession should be more robust in the future, the lack of reported bad geoscience assessments does not mean they do not occur. Often, the impacts of bad environmental assessment takes years to uncover and then, not only is the public at risk, but the only remedy is in the court of law or at a greater clean-up expense.

Sincerely,



Glenn R. Lowenstein, PG TX #28  
Terrain Solutions, Inc.