

**From:** [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
**To:** [Trisha Linebarger](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 12, 2018 1:52:48 PM

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

From: sunset@sunset.texas.gov <sunset@sunset.texas.gov> On Behalf Of Texas Sunset Commission  
Sent: Wednesday, December 12, 2018 10:37 AM  
To: Sunset Advisory Commission <Sunset@sunset.texas.gov>  
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Agency: TEXAS STATE BOARD PLUMBING EXAMINERS

First Name: Thomas A

Last Name: Lund

Title: Journeyman Plumber

Organization you are affiliated with: Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners

Email:

City: Kingwood

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or

Opposed: My name is Thomas "Addam" Lund, I am a Journeyman Plumber out of the Greater Houston area, one the largest plumbing markets in the country. In response to the Sunset Commission wanting to remove the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners as the authority on plumbing in the state of Texas, I am opposed. In my career as a plumber I have worked under direct supervision of either a Journeyman Plumber or a Responsible Master Plumber for over 8,000 hours to earn the right to take my Journeyman's Plumbing Exam. I have taken the courses and continuing education necessary to maintain and expand my plumbing skills as set out by the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners. I have shown the TSBPE that I have the knowledge and practical skills to be a plumber in the State of Texas. As a plumber in the service industry I have come across many homes and businesses that have had plumbing repairs made by licensed and non-licensed plumbers that were in clear code violation. As a result, these "repairs" have either affected or had the potential to affect people in very dangerous ways. Whether it was a cross-connection causing contaminated non-potable water to enter the potable water system of a family's home. Making the entire family gravely ill. An improper gas line connection that had the potential to turn a family's dream backyard kitchen into a news worthy explosion. Or the drain, waste, and vent connections installed improperly by a licensed plumber causing constant sewer gas to build in an elderly couples home. Sewer gas so severe the couple would get violently nauseous if they stayed in their only restroom for long periods of time. These are only a few of the incidents I have personally seen. I have witnessed many more and have heard the horror stories from colleagues in the field. The TSBPE are there to respond to the complaints of public. To hold the licensed plumbers accountable for poor workmanship and to keep the non-licensed plumbers from performing these potentially life threatening mistakes. The TSBPE is not perfect. There are issues that need to be resolved, but removing them altogether is NOT the answer. Better funding to better regulate would be a step in the right direction. But to remove the TSBPE and no longer require that a person is to be an apprentice under the direct supervision of a Responsible Master Plumber for the 4,000 hours it takes to earn the right to take their Tradesman's exam, or the 8,000 hours that is required to earn the right to take their Journeyman's exam would be an ill advised decision. These licenses are needed to show that a person is competent in their abilities and to protect the health of the public. The Board needs to be there to oversee the education of the rising numbers of people attempting to become a plumber in the field. They need to be able to

oversee the complaints against the plumbers that are in the field who do not uphold the standards and codes of our trade. The board needs to be left in place to examine our skills in a practical setting to show that we not only the have the knowledge to pass a written test but to demonstrate we have the hands on training required to perform our trade.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Please increase the funding of the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners so they can continue to properly regulate the trade.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree