

I would like to respond to the recent Sunset Advisory Commission staff report concerning the Texas Council on Purchasing from People with Disabilities (TCPPD). I have served as a council member since May of 2013. My career in vocational services began in 1976 and I am currently employed with Andrews Center, a community behavioral healthcare provider in East Texas.

I appreciate the hard work and detail that Sunset staff put into the report. I do however have differing opinions regarding significant recommendations and positions presented in the report. The State Use Program of Texas ranks as one of the very best in the nation. From 2001 to 2013 State use Sales increased by 97% while wages grew 72% for workers with disabilities. These are solid numbers when we take into account a major recession and high unemployment that were serious issues.

- Recommendations 1-1, to abolish TCPPD and place oversight and administration of the State Use Program at the comptroller's office is a drastic measure. The diverse and substantial level of knowledge and experience the TCPPD possesses would be lost. I do believe that one additional paid staff would be of great use to TCPPD. I personally also think that the comptroller's office should have some input on helping to set prices for the State Use Program contracts.
- Recommendation 1-2, to establish an advisory committee to set goals for the State Use Program and standards for CRP's. An advisory committee of knowledgeable stakeholders does have merit and would be a welcomed addition.
- Recommendation 1-3, reevaluation of the process for conducting CRP compliance and monitoring. I believe that this is not necessary. The TCPPD and the CNA work well together to ensure CRP certification and compliance are effective. TCPPD staff could improve and enhance monitoring.
- Recommendation 1-4, study the cost to the state of continuing to administer the State Use Program. A fair and well developed study is in fact needed.

In closing I want to convey how proud I am of the accomplishments of the Texas State Use Program. Several thousand proud and dedicated Texans with disabilities are the foundation for this success. When welfare rolls have never been higher, we have a State Use Program that gives willing people a path to self-independence and dignity. We have not perfected our efforts to fully employ all those with disabilities seeking jobs. There is still work to be done to further the success that has been achieved.

Enhanced collaboration with the comptroller's office and adding some needed help should show positive results. The State Use Program is vital to the well being of so many deserving individuals. We need to do all that we can to make this work for everyone involved.

Respectfully submitted,

Al Matson

From: [Janet Wood](#)
To: [Cecelia Hartley](#)
Subject: FW: Document1
Date: Friday, October 17, 2014 10:13:59 AM
Attachments: [Document1.docx](#)

From: Al Matson
Sent: Friday, October 17, 2014 10:02 AM
To: Janet Wood
Cc: Waymon Stewart
Subject: FW: Document1

Hello Ms. Wood. I am submitting my personal comments concerning the Sunset Advisory Commission staff report on the Texas Council on Purchasing from People with Disabilities. Thank you for this opportunity to provide input into this process. Respectfully, Al Matson
