

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Trisha Linebarger](#)
Subject: FW: Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners
Date: Monday, November 12, 2018 8:03:58 AM

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

From: Jacob Morgan
Sent: Sunday, November 11, 2018 9:02 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission <Sunset@sunset.texas.gov>
Subject: Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners

Sunset Board,

Hopefully this email makes it to you guys and finds you all well. It's my understanding that your organization has been investigating the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners and have found many issues. This all became news to a lot of us, plumbers, just last week. Honestly, the news doesn't set well with a lot of us because it's outlined in change and uncertainty.

My name is Jacob Morgan, I am a licensed Journeyman Plumber (J-49569) in this great state! Plumbing has been my career since the day I walked out of high school and decided to trade in the books for a set of tools. While a lot of folks choose a path that involves more schooling and a substantial amount of debt, we plumbers still remain very educated out in the field. The purpose of my last comment was to assure you, the board, that the suggested changes in the executive summary are ludicrous and absolutely devalues our trade. I say "our" because the Sunset Commission has no earthly idea what it means to be a plumber, what it means to protect the health of the nation, and how it feels to make positive change one house at a time. Proper sanitation played a major part in India eradicating polio, vaccinations seem to take a lot of credit in this circumstance but either way the people are safer and we're happy. Let's reminisce as far back as 1347 to 1351 when the Black Plague ripped up Eurasia because of improper sanitation. Indoor plumbing is one of the greatest inventions in medical history but yet the Sunset Commission wants to roll us in with the TDLR and make getting a plumbing license easier? Once again not being plumbers puts heavy blinders over the board's eyes. Currently our testing methods have already become easier, to the point to where it's almost laughable. We are not California, we will not turn out "plumbers" just to meet a quota and completely throw away quality. Our customers deserve better, our companies we work for deserve better, and our fellow brothers and sisters in this trade deserve better.

The State Board of Plumbing Examiners has a lot on their plate, I will be the first to admit that, but they have done no wrong by us licensees or applicants. The wait time to take your test can be used accordingly to study rather than shorten the test and "dumb" it down. This trade is meant to be hard, it's meant to make you use your mind rather than have someone else do it for you, and it's meant to make good men/ women better. Doing away with the RMP license and going with a "Plumbing Contractor" is absurd. That would be equivalent to us calling the political parties by their mascot names rather than their titles. You're devaluing our worth by allowing this market to accept people who cannot properly plumb, you're devaluing licensees when you talk about dropping restrictions, and you're devaluing us when you're talking about allowing the TDLR to just roll us in.

I personally would like to speak with board members or anyone worth explaining how this has come about in a civil manner. I cannot see how this change will help anyone other than investor owned plumbing companies who only see money and not the importance and impact of our trade. Please feel free to call or email if there's any chance, you guys hold our fate in your hands so it would be nice actually hear a voice.

Thanks,

Jacob Morgan
Journeyman Plumber
Service Experts

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Trisha Linebarger](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Tuesday, November 27, 2018 7:05:40 AM

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

From: sunset@sunset.texas.gov <sunset@sunset.texas.gov> On Behalf Of Texas Sunset Commission
Sent: Monday, November 26, 2018 11:01 PM
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: Jacob

Last Name: Morgan

Title: Journeyman Plumber

Organization you are affiliated with: Service Experts

Email:

City: Celeste

State: Texas

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

While the recent findings on the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners aren't entirely wrong, the proposed changes are far from a solution. The board has their flaws when it comes to testing dates and being understaffed but that's the only real issue I've personally seen; in 10 years I would say that's a consistent track record as Lisa Hill and her team do a great job!

The consistent pattern I did notice in the Sunset report was how discrediting it was towards the board then making the recommendation to bring them on as an advisory board? In our business a repipe is meant to replace everything, not throw in some new and leave a little of the old. That's what we call a patch, patches typically don't come with a warranty. The board could stand to make a few changes, I agree, but the changes should be made within their own organization. To increase funds coming in we could increase licensing fees for lower level licenses than the RMP and the Master.

I hold a Journeyman Plumbing license and fully support a decision to increase our annual fee to help maintain our current board's status as active.

I did agree with the multiple testing locations because this is a large state and there are multiple obstacles that could come into play when you have to drive from El Paso to Austin to test. I do feel the testing process should remain the same: written, shop, and dollhouse. There's no need to try and "dumb" these sections down because the public's safety is at risk and we value that over putting another "body" in a truck to produce revenue.

The public's safety is the single most important reason why we need to remain under the TSBPE and not make it easier for people to obtain licenses!

I was talking to a fire fighter friend of ours and brought up this situation we're currently in. I learned that the majority of home fires he personally has fought has been from guys/ girls who have little knowledge out making big mistakes. Soldering in a wall and catching the house on fire, trying to repair water heaters, running gas lines, and the list goes on! After our conversation curiosity took over and I found myself contacting multiple stations from all over the state at random looking for answers. My curiosity turned more into a data collecting spree and honestly it felt

good to hear the support these men and women had for us. They know the dangers of allowing unqualified people into your home, it's part of their living as well.

Investor companies come here and dump loads of money to change our trade so they can grow their service contracts and sell to energy companies. These new laws will make that easier for them, they will rid away quality plumbing, and they will put the public in danger. Those are not dice I'd say we should attempt to roll.

The changing of the licensing is something I have a hard time understanding as well. We are a trade that allows a licensee and registrants multiple opportunities, multiple licenses/ endorsements, and the restrictions set in place keep us and the public protected. The majority of the companies in the state that do residential service plumbing will have at least 1 apprentice with a drain cleaners endorsement running calls legally and profiting. By pulling that you not only hurt the business but you hurt the family that young man/ woman is trying to support! You're not bringing opportunity, you're taking away.

Lastly, the TDLR doesn't have the capability to properly handle plumbers.

Clearly bringing the TSBPE on as an advisory board shows the TDLR is too wrapped up being the Wal Mart of licensing. We want to be governed by our own! We want to know that when we earn these credentials we actually deserve to have them because we took a test that actually tested our knowledge.

Turning the plumbing test into some standardized school test would be an insult to everyone who carries a license and shows these investor companies are dumping money into politicians pockets to help clear a path in devaluing our trade!

I stand with the TSBPE as do many others in this state. The idea of making more opportunities for "plumbers" will result in losing real plumbers over brainstorms put on paper.

Thank you for your time.

Jacob Morgan

Journeyman Plumber

J-49569

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

Original post included ideas for change.

- Increase fee's for annual renewal for lower licenses under the master and RMP.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree