

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Brittany Calame](#)
Subject: FW: Geoscientist Licensing in Texas
Date: Friday, August 17, 2018 2:35:11 PM

From: Michael O'Donnell
Sent: Friday, August 17, 2018 1:02 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission <Sunset@sunset.texas.gov>
Subject: Geoscientist Licensing in Texas

I have just been made aware of the proposal to do away with Texas State Licensing for Professional Geoscientists. I am currently out of town, but plan a more extensive letter to delineate my opposition to this proposal. A few comments would be 1. Why would Texas, which leads the nation in so many respects, chose to fall behind in their efforts to assure that quality science is being applied, while also encouraging a scientific community, that has an ever increasing interaction with the public, to be educated in the most current science and methodologies. 2. Why would Texas go against a nationwide trend to assure the highest ethical standards are maintained in all the geosciences, petroleum, environmental and construction. 3. It may seem minor, but I and many others have spent thousands of dollars maintaining our licences. Who will be refunding the the license fees and educational expenses?

This is a poorly thought out proposal, which I am afraid will result in many unintended consequences. I don't know who or what is the source of the sunset committee's information, but they are greatly mistaken in their appraisal of the importance of the licensing procedure. I am vehemently opposed to abolishing the Texas State Licensing for Professional Geoscientists.

When I return to town I will elaborate further.

Sincerely,

Michael R O'Donnell
Professional Geoscientist
In Texas and Wyoming
With over 30 years of experience as a geoscientist in the upstream oil and gas industry