

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Brittany Calame](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Friday, August 17, 2018 7:28:17 AM

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

From: sunset@sunset.texas.gov <sunset@sunset.texas.gov> On Behalf Of Texas Sunset Commission
Sent: Thursday, August 16, 2018 8:48 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission <Sunset@sunset.texas.gov>
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Agency: TEXAS BOARD PROFESSIONAL GEOSCIENTISTS TBPG

First Name: Joaquin

Last Name: Owens

Title: Geologist

Organization you are affiliated with: US Department of Interior

Email:

City: New Orleans

State: Louisiana

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

The commission clearly doesn't appreciate how critically important the responsible practice of geology is in relation to public health, public safety, and protection of public assets - particularly in the areas of air quality, water quality, natural hazard mitigation, and infrastructure development. The public absolutely has an interest in having educated and trained geoscientists performing their duties ethically and with competence.

If we distill this down a bit, at issue is who decides who can call themselves a geoscientist and does the state need to be responsible for making that kind of determination. I say yes

The board's activities are apparently fully funded by license fees with some left over! Enough geoscientists believe the program is worthwhile enough to keep up their license fees.

It's hilarious that the commission thinks that there is any correlation between a lack of enforcement action and an ineffective licensing program.

Maybe there hasn't been much enforcement action because the program is effective?

I got my university degree, the requisite years of experience, letters of reference, and I passed both exams. I don't need a license to practice geology, I don't get paid extra for having a license, but I believe in professional licensure for geoscientists and support the Texas board of professional geoscientists so I will continue to pay my renewal fees and get my professional development hours.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Keep the board and professional geoscientist license program

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree