

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Brittany Calame](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Thursday, August 16, 2018 12:42:10 PM

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

From: sunset@sunset.texas.gov <sunset@sunset.texas.gov> On Behalf Of Texas Sunset Commission
Sent: Thursday, August 16, 2018 12:27 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: Chirag

Last Name: Patel

Title:

Organization you are affiliated with:

Email:

City: Pflugerville

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or
Opposed:
meetings Senators and Representatives of the Sunset Advisory Commission,

I write to you in opposition to the staff report and recommendations to abolish the regulatory body Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists (TBPG) and repeal of the Texas Geoscience Practice Act.

I believe along with the large community including the public, scientists, individuals and professional geoscientists that those with the firm foundation in geological fundamentals and practice in the field of geoscience in combination with scientific reasoning and judgment provide the best course of protection of public health and safety are in the best interests of the state of Texas, its citizens is a model to be emulated around the country.
This can only continue if we support the continuation of the TBPG and the Texas Geoscience Practice Act

The TBPG was created in 2001 and became fully active in 2003. As this is the first and only review of the board, the sunset staff have found that Professional geoscientists provide valuable assessments, research related to groundwater, subsurface, and other areas. While the TBPG is entrusted to with the mission to protect public health, safety, welfare and the state's natural resources by ensuring only qualified persons carry out the public practice of geoscience.

The staff's recommendation to repeal the TBPG because it has not prosecuted and enforced enough speaks to the ethics and professionalism of the field.

While unscrupulous actors may profess themselves to be a geologist or any sort of scientist, without the minimum of any qualification other than a cursory internet search, the field is filled with individuals who have taken upon themselves to represent and accurately provide a factual and scientifically reasoned with the practice and public

report on the activities related to the field of geology. I believe the TBPG, licensed geoscientists, and geoscience firms have and continue to act, bound to the mission of scientific accuracy, protection of public health, safety, welfare and the state's natural resources by not acting in a manner, that undermines the mission of the TBPG or the profession of geoscience, which would require intervention by the TBPG, or any other state or federal agency in the state of Texas.

The measurable impact on public protection speaks volumes to both the state agencies which help protect public health but also to the individuals practicing in the field have committed no maleficence to cause harm to the public. The reasoning of the sunset staff to find no examples or evidence of significant public harm due to unlicensed geoscientists speaks to the highlight complicated and significant qualifications and contributions of trained geoscientist. The practice of geology continues to expand around the country with states beginning to add licensure requirements to public practice of geosciences. The contributions of licensed professional geoscientists will only continue to grow as the field is truly protective of public health and the great state of Texas's resources.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Continuing TBPG and Texas Geoscience practice Act

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree