

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Brittany Calame](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Friday, August 10, 2018 1:00:19 PM

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

From: sunset@sunset.texas.gov <sunset@sunset.texas.gov> On Behalf Of Texas Sunset Commission
Sent: Friday, August 10, 2018 12:43 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 TBPGE

First Name: Don

Last Name: Popkess

Title: President

Organization you are affiliated with: Alpha & Omega Exploration Co. (a Texas S-Corp)

Email:

City: Wister

State: Oklahoma

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

Dear Sunset Advisory Commission Members,

I have been a Petroleum Geologist for 36 years and my company is a tax-paying Texas S-Corp. Although I currently reside in Oklahoma, I will be moving back to Texas in the next year or two and I surely want to weigh on this issue. I was against the formation of the Geoscientist Board from its inception and many years now down the road I still am against such. I think it should be abolished as it is a shameful waste of my fellow Texas geoscientists time and money...they are tax-payers too! Not only that, many of my colleagues , like myself, are self-employed and it is very costly to take time off from work to do the continuing education to supposedly "protect" the public. Protect the public from WHAT may I ask? Not a single one of my registered colleagues has expressed any benefits that have come from the Board, nor from being registered. Most I know only registered out of fear of government regulations later strangling their ability to conduct their business. People in favor of this Board apparently do not understand the oil industry and how the community of professional geoscientists conduct themselves. It is a tight-knit community and we have held each other accountable for decades before this Board came into being. Without a good reputation, folks simply not survive in this industry. A plaque on the wall does not make someone suddenly have integrity. We don't need a government agency to regulate us...nor does the public. That is, this not a high-risk industry in terms of being one where the public needs to be protected from dishonest or incompetent geoscientists. The industry itself, by virtue of its own nature, naturally weeds out any unscrupulous or inept individuals. And even then, a few bad apples that come along now and then are certainly not a threat to the public, nor to honest, professional geoscientists. Therefore, please record my vote that this Board is an absolute waste of time & money. Please abolish it!

Respectfully,
Don Popkess, Geologist/President

Alpha & Omega Exploration Co.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

My recommendation is to abolish the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree