

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Brittany Calame](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Wednesday, August 15, 2018 2:01:27 PM

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

From: sunset@sunset.texas.gov <sunset@sunset.texas.gov> On Behalf Of Texas Sunset Commission
Sent: Wednesday, August 15, 2018 1:28 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

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

Texas is strongly influenced by its geology, and Texans directly benefit from it. Of course its soils and mineral resources are naturally a consequence of its rocks. But more than most states, Texas' surface and groundwater are strongly controlled by the distribution of strata. Not to forget oil and gas, the historical and continued backbone of this state's economy. There isn't a single person in this state that isn't dependent on its geology.

As a consequence, numerous Texas frequently directly interact with geologists in a wide array of applications. Given its importance, it is paramount that this state retain qualified individuals who understand the science and its application. The Texas Board of Professional Geologists is essential to Texas' public health, safety, and welfare. I have had a large number of former students apply to become Professional Geologists. The process is robust and discriminating, and insures that these individuals are qualified to serve Texan's copious geologic needs.

I urge this esteemed commission to not only reconsider abolishing the Texas Board of Professional Geologists, but instead recommend strengthening the board in their role of license enforcement. Please consider the following points:

- The impacts of geological work are long-lived. For example, geologists are asked to mitigate risks (earthquakes, landslides, storm surge drainage) or locate resources (petroleum, water impoundment, aquifer resources) that have decade or longer cycles. An assessment of measurable impacts needs to be equally long-sighted, and over a number of scales.
- Geologists deal with the public on a number of levels. Perhaps the largest of these is the role of independent geologic consultancy for oil and gas operators and developers reliant on new water resources, key economic drivers in this state.
- Much of Texas is highly dependent on groundwater, and the public relies on geologists to correctly assess this critical resource.
- The Professional Geologist credential establishes a common basis for assessing the qualifications of geoscientists to assume liability for work conducted for all clients. This eliminates the need for other state agencies, like the RRC and TCEQ, to dedicate their valuable time and resources to evaluating

geologic credentials.

- Licensing has certainly declined due to aging out. Geology programs in Texas carried their largest graduating classes in the late 70's and early 80's, declining sharply with the oil bust of that latter decade. This large population of professional geologists has been retiring within the last few years. Although programs saw an uptick in students during the recent shale-gas boom, it never reached the level of the last century. There aren't enough replacements. Geologists are now back in high demand, and the push towards greater US production will only drive it higher.
 - Currently 32 states regulate geoscience or geology. Impressive as most states don't have Texas' dependency on geologic resources nor its number of employed earth scientists. If any state needs licensing of practicing geologists, it is the state of Texas.
- Thank you for your consideration.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: i recommend that the Sunset Advisory Committee reconsider abolishing the Texas Board of Professional Geologists, but instead strengthen the board in their role of license enforcement.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree