

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Brittany Calame](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Friday, August 3, 2018 8:05:08 AM

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

From: sunset@sunset.texas.gov <sunset@sunset.texas.gov> On Behalf Of Texas Sunset Commission
Sent: Thursday, August 2, 2018 5:48 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: Steven

Last Name: Rutherford

Title: Geophysicist

Organization you are affiliated with: Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists

Email:

City: Cypress

State: Texas

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

I wholeheartedly support the recommendation of the Sunset Commission to abolish the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists in September 2019.

I am a retired geophysicist with 38 years of experience in Oil & Gas Exploration and Development. I became licensed under the "grandfather clause" in the inaugural year (2003) of the TBPG. If I remember correctly, the Society of Exploration Geophysicists (SEG) and the Association of American Petroleum Geologists (AAPG) were major backers and pushers of the TBPG licensing. This struck me as odd at the time as 99% of the geologists and geophysicists they represent did not need to be licensed to practice their professions. Nevertheless I became licensed, mainly out of fear that "creeping government regulation" in the future would require me to be "licensed" to ply my trade and earn a living.

In 15 years of being licensed by the TBPG I have spent approximately \$3400 in dues and have received no tangible benefits at all. Not once have I been asked to stamp a geophysical interpretation or report. The vast majority of the TBPG licensees are in my position. They are maintaining a license that is not useful to them and not required for their jobs. I see no useful purpose that the TBPG serves. If truth be known, I think the major impetus for geoscience licensing all along was out of "engineer envy"; ie, establishing geoscience as just as "important" and "professional" as engineering. For the reasons listed here, I support abolishing the TBPG.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: This agency should be sun setted out.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree