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August 16, 2018

Texas Sunset Advisory Commission  
P.O. Box 13066  
Austin, Texas 78711

Re: Sunset Staff Report on Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Texas Sunset Advisory Commission:

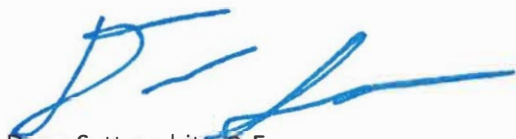
On behalf of the Texas Water Conservation Association ("TWCA") Groundwater Panel, I want to thank the Texas Sunset Advisory Commission for the opportunity to comment on the Staff Report regarding Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists. TWCA is an association of public and private entities interested in the conservation, development, protection, and utilization of the State's water resources for beneficial purposes. It has statewide membership that consists of more than 400 total members, including more than 200 regional entities, municipalities, water districts and authorities, groundwater conservation districts, flood control and improvement districts, irrigation districts, river authorities, and private corporations, in addition to individual members. The TWCA Groundwater Panel is one of nine subject-area panels of the association, and consists of attorneys, engineers, geologists and other professionals representing both the producer, regulator, and conservation interests of groundwater. As chair of this panel, I recently surveyed Groundwater Panel members regarding the Staff Report and the opportunity to comment.

The results from the survey show that the Groundwater Panel overwhelmingly supports leaving the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists in place as well as the opinion that Professional Geoscientists have a significant impact on the public health, safety and/or welfare of the citizens of Texas. Licensing of professional geoscientists is important to ensure adequate protection of groundwater quality and availability, as well as private property rights in groundwater. These charges are of the utmost importance in a state where at least 60 percent of all water used comes from underground aquifers. At a time when people are turning more and more to groundwater to supply Texas water needs, it's more important than ever that we rely on the sound science provided through the oversight of this Board.

Due to the short time frame between the release of the Staff Report and consideration by the Committee, we have not been able to bring this issue to the full TWCA board. Therefore, we encourage the Committee to, at a minimum, allow more opportunity for participation and comments on this important issue before a final decision is made.

I greatly appreciate the Sunset Commission providing the opportunity to comment on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Drew Satterwhite', written over a horizontal line.

Drew Satterwhite, P.E.  
Chairman, TWCA Groundwater Panel