

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Brittany Calame](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Tuesday, August 21, 2018 7:53:33 AM

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

From: sunset@sunset.texas.gov <sunset@sunset.texas.gov> On Behalf Of Texas Sunset Commission
Sent: Monday, August 20, 2018 7:03 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: Greg

Last Name: Scherbenske

Title: Program Manager

Organization you are affiliated with: Hydrologic Monitoring

Email:

City: Houston

State: Texas

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

I know this comment may be received after the deadline unfortunately, but I hope it is reviewed. I highly oppose the abolishment of the Texas Professional Geoscientist program. For me personally, my company and my clients, a licensed geoscientist serves as one of the technical industry leaders in the environmental consulting field. A professional geoscientist serves the public and industry to make sound technical decisions for the environmental health of our resources, in additional ethical and safe direction for the petrochemical industry. Without a license differentiator, any "professional", regardless of experience or education will be deemed as capable to make technical decisions. This is simply not true as I see many others in the industry with "environmental degrees" that simply do not contain core geoscience curriculum. If abolished, lesser qualified individuals will be able to provide technical guidance without the proper education or experience to back up the guidance. A licensed geoscientist provides a safeguard for the industry with educated, experienced technical decision making ability. This is exactly what the current administration of the Texas Professional Geoscientist program provides the public, industry and the environment.....the Board "legitimizes the profession", and that can not be abolished.

A little about my history that further highlights my opposition on a very personal level. I graduated with a B.S in environmental chemistry and slightly missed the opportunity to be grandfathered in as a Texas P.G. As a result of my undergraduate degree being inferior for the Board to grant me a license, I went to graduate school and obtained a Masters degree enabling me to have the correct educational credentials to obtain a P.G. license. I passed both the fundamentals and professional exams and was able to work towards a major career goal of obtaining a P.G. license in March 2011. This was a personal goal of mine as I watched more experienced licensed professionals yield technical guidance to the industry. I am NOT one of the current 75% of the geoscientist that were grandfathered in. It would be terribly disappointing to abolish the program after spending the time, effort and financial burden of pursuing my license, and I am sure there are others that will be in a similar situation as I am if the program is abolished.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Rather than abolishing the Texas Professional Geoscientists program in total, the program may be leveraged to the TCEQ for licensing as they currently provide regulatory oversight for this discipline.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree