

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Brittany Calame](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Tuesday, August 7, 2018 5:04:36 PM

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

From: sunset@sunset.texas.gov <sunset@sunset.texas.gov> On Behalf Of Texas Sunset Commission
Sent: Tuesday, August 7, 2018 4:58 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: Robert

Last Name: Shields

Title: Vice President and Principal Geologist

Organization you are affiliated with: Shields Engineering, Inc.

Email:

City: Kaufman

State: Texas

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

Dear Sunset Commission,

I am opposed to your recommendation that the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists (TBPG) program be abolished. I am a licensed geologist in the state of Texas. I have been practicing in this state for 34 years. I began my environmental consulting career 32 years ago and have seen the industry through many phases. In the 1990s, my industry went through some dark periods. The quality of work, with respect to geologic investigations, was all over the place and inconsistent. Some of the work was downright shameful. For example, I inherited a project in west Dallas that took me two months to clear up and I had to return to the site and basically start over with respect to data collection. My client was unaware that his previous consultant was completely unqualified and inept. It cost my client 10s of thousands of dollars to get back on track. I also remember a site in Houston where a consultant drilled through a confining layer below a dry cleaner that allowed dry cleaning solvents to sink well below the surface into the Chico Aquifer. This mistake was huge and costly and resulted in a class action law suit where innocent home owners were affected by the spread of contaminants underneath their properties. I could go on but I remember that my colleagues went through the same experiences where they would inherit shoddy work and have to go back and clean up the mess. We had what we called a wall of shame in our offices with various reports to display nightmares where consultants made similar mistakes as I have shared with you above. I can testify that when the Geoscience licensing was begun, that these sorts of mistakes greatly diminished and the quality of work greatly improved. Some of the old timers at the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and Texas Railroad Commission (TRRC) will back up what I'm saying but with probably many more examples. No doubt, the TBPG program can be improved. However, abolishing it will leave our citizens of this great state vulnerable, once again, to shoddy work by unqualified individuals. I am glad to come down to Austin and meet with you. It will be an honor to become a resource as we transition the current TBPG into the newly improved TBPG.

Sincerely,

R. David Shiels, P.G., CHMM

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Let's put together a committee, headed by a practicing P.G., to get the TBPG where it needs to be for Texans.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree