

**From:** [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
**To:** [Brittany Calame](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 15, 2018 3:20:47 PM

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

From: sunset@sunset.texas.gov <sunset@sunset.texas.gov> On Behalf Of Texas Sunset Commission  
Sent: Wednesday, August 15, 2018 2:19 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: Merrie

Last Name: Smith

Title:

Organization you are affiliated with:

Email:

City: Austin

State: Texas

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

With respect, I oppose the recommendation to abolish the TBPG and repeal the Texas Geoscience Practice Act. The fact that state agencies review the work of geoscientists, overlooks the fact that the many of the staff that work for these agencies are also licensed geoscientists. The State of Texas, in many circumstances, specifically hires licensed geoscientists to ensure that staff are available to review complex geoscientific work submitted to the State to show compliance with state law established to protect public health and the environment. State agencies also review the work of licensed landscape irrigators, water well drillers, professional sanitarians and others, however this review does not replace the need for work to be conducted by professionals that are knowledgeable and the science and regulations that apply.

Since the Texas Geoscience Act was enacted, the quality of work being reported to state agencies and the ability of state agencies to effectively review information submitted has improved significantly. Not only do licensed geoscientists perform work to protect the public, they also perform work the ensure that environmental regulations target higher risk sites, rather than sites where the impacted groundwater is not used and is not likely to be used in the future. Aquifer testing, evaluation of lithologic cross sections and evaluation of well design is often needed to ensure that private water wells are not threatened by contamination. Who would the owner of that private well want evaluating that risk to their well? Someone with the education and experience needed to obtain a PG license or just anyone?

and therefore ensure public safety is short sighted. The State of Texas specifically hires licensed geoscientists in many circumstances to ensure that

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Provide meaningful measures for the TBPG to enforce existing laws.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree