



October 17, 2014

Mr. Ken Levine, Director
Sunset Advisory Commission
1501 N. Congress, 6th floor
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Mr. Levine,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Sunset Staff Study on the Self-Directed Semi-Independent Status of State Agencies report. As one of the original Self-Directed Semi-Independent (SDSI) agencies, the Texas Board of Professional Engineers (TBPE) has found the SDSI program to be very effective and we have worked hard to be a model of efficiency, transparency, and accountability. This is evident through our various awards, audits, Sunset reviews, and multiple and detailed reports to the Governor's Office, the legislature, and various oversight agencies.

During the 83rd Legislative Session (2013), the SDSI program underwent a full Sunset review and the involved agencies were found to be operating appropriately and the SDSI Act was working as intended. The legislature felt that the program could be improved further and added several additional requirements, including additional reporting and procedural clarifications.

As required by HB 1675 (83rd Regular Session), the current SDSI report makes additional recommendations to those included in the recent Sunset legislation. Specifically, the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) would be charged to develop and administer a process for monitoring SDSI agencies and for potential revocation of SDSI status, and recommends potential expansion of reporting and monitoring requirements for SDSI agencies. The LBB would be charged with developing the format for reporting.

The TBPE has extensive experience in SDSI operations, monitoring, performance measure collection and analysis, budgeting, and reporting. There are currently numerous measures already required by statute for SDSI agencies to report, both legacy measures from the original SDSI program as well as measures newly added during the 2013 Sunset legislation. Therefore, TBPE would like to offer our assistance to the LBB and Sunset commission with these charges and to help develop the most relevant and effective reporting and monitoring processes. We believe our experience with SDSI would be very valuable to assist in meeting the goals of transparency and accountability while keeping a focus on the intent of the SDSI program toward innovative and efficient state government.

If you have any questions or need any additional information, feel free to contact me at 512/440-3080, any time.

Sincerely,


Lance Kinney, P.E.
Executive Director