

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Brittany Calame](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Thursday, August 16, 2018 7:54:26 AM

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

From: sunset@sunset.texas.gov <sunset@sunset.texas.gov> On Behalf Of Texas Sunset Commission
Sent: Thursday, August 16, 2018 6:53 AM
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: John

Last Name: Tintera

Title: President

Organization you are affiliated with: Texas Alliance of Energy Producers

Email:

City: Austin

State: Texas

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

As a geologist TBPG License # 325, with decades of experience in the industry, it is incumbent upon me to express my support for the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists. As someone who hires geologists, has provided expert testimony in civil court, who has issued permits for waste handling and disposal on behalf of the State, and who has worked for decades as an environmental and regulatory expert conducting sensitive and potentially dangerous environmental pollution cleanups, I oppose the abolishment of the TBPG.

The public deserves the layer of competency and protection the TBPG certification brings to environmental geologic work. There may be unintended consequence if the TBPG is abolished, all of which could have a negative impact on public safety in Texas.

Professional licensure provides more than just an accepted baseline of knowledge, but also provides a guarantee that the work being done is supported and reports at least in part to the state of Texas.

The uses of the PG licensing are numerous. When hiring it demonstrates a specific level of peer reviewed competence. In civil court it places the judge and jury on notice that the witness is an expert, recognized by his profession and on par with any other board certified profession that may also be testifying. Nationally it is reciprocal with many other States that require Board Certification of its geological practitioners.

Let me focus on environmental geology, pollution cleanup, and permitting. I have sampled hundreds of water monitor wells in my career and cleaned up literally thousands of pollution sites for the State. Many of these investigations involve the risk of public exposure to harmful chemicals. One mistake in well installation, one mistake in geological interpretation, and the public may be at risk for coming into contact with these chemicals. Flint Michigan water supply is a sad story of children's exposure to lead. The state of Texas oversees numerous pollution cleanups where lead is evaluated as part of a risk evaluation. Having a professional with their board certification in

place and their seal on a cleanup plan is one more piece of insurance to the public that cleanup is being done right.

In addition to this, it is of no small merit to maintain an aesthetic comparable to other professions we work alongside (e.g. engineering), who also maintain a healthy professional licensure system. One might ask if the lack of complaints to the TBPG thus far has been due in large part to its reassuring presence.

Finally, I would add that although the majority of current licenses were grandfathered in, many of those license holders will be retiring within the next decades. The board certification is a plan for the present and the future. Environmental investigations will not decline. We need this level of oversight to help our children tomorrow just as much as we do today. The State of Texas would do well to ensure that the future geologists are up to the task.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Please continue the TBPG in its present form .

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree