

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Brittany Calame](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 4:57:25 PM

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

From: sunset@sunset.texas.gov <sunset@sunset.texas.gov> On Behalf Of Texas Sunset Commission
Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 4:57 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: James

Last Name: Totten

Title: General Manager

Organization you are affiliated with: Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District

Email:

City: Smithville

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed: I would like to express my opposition to the recommended abolition of the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists. The state of Texas faces increasing demands for water across multiple user groups and in the absence of new surface water supplies these demands are increasingly met by groundwater sources. The utilization of groundwater is a contentious issue pitting private property rights of landowners who wish to conserve water under their property against the private property right of landowners who wish to utilize it. Currently, the best sources of information for evaluating the potential impacts of groundwater production on the property rights of landowners comes from state licensed professional geoscientists.

While disagreement between licensed geoscientists are not uncommon, the professional licensing and ethics guidelines establish a baseline of professionalism and integrity that the public and policy makers can rely upon. In the absence of these standards and professional licensing lay opinions will be able to proliferate and assert unearned and unmerited influence in the realm of groundwater policy either through direct influence on policy makers or through influence on the opinions of the general public.

The state's groundwater law would also be adversely impacted by unreliable opinions, theories, and testimony that would shape court precedent.

Interjecting more uncertainty into the groundwater management process will only hamper efforts to effectively manage groundwater to meet the current and future needs of the state, by fostering overly protectionist positions or bolstering reckless and inappropriate groundwater projects.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: None at this time

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree