

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Brittany Calame](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 2:28:57 PM

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

From: sunset@sunset.texas.gov <sunset@sunset.texas.gov> On Behalf Of Texas Sunset Commission
Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 1:45 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: Michelle

Last Name: Transier

Title: Geologist

Organization you are affiliated with: Hydrex Environmental

Email:

City: Nacogdoches

State: Texas

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

I am a licensed Professional Geoscientist with Hydrex Environmental in Nacogdoches, Texas. It has come to my attention that one of the agencies that the Sunset Advisory Commission is reviewing is the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists. This board is extremely important to every Texan as it ensures the professionalism and competence of those charged with protecting human and environmental health of our great State. Just as an engineer must prove proficiency or even a plumber must prove competence to install pipes in a home, a geologist must prove they are mentally capable and ethically sound enough to protect the public and our most precious resources, one of which is drinking water. While it is true that many of the currently licensed Professional Geoscientists were grandfathered in at the inception of the Board, this is only true due to the relative youth of the Board. Every new geologist must take a set of stringent and challenging tests coupled with verified experience to prove they fully understand the science and technical equipment required to gather data, report on our resources, and protect our families.

The Staff Report provided by the Sunset Advisory Commission states that "effectively half of the practicing geoscientists in Texas are exempt from regulation". This statement is misleading in that all geoscientists who are charged with protection of human and environmental health, and natural resources in a public capacity must either be or work under a licensed Professional Geoscientist. To refer back to the plumber, according to Texas Occupations Code Title 8 Subchapter B, a person is not required to be licensed if they are not working on plumbing connected to a public water supply, if they are a maintenance person, a person engaged in appliance installation, and copious other exemptions. The logic of the Summary would require that the State of Texas should no longer license any other plumbers.

This same reasoning applies to many other professions including Professional Engineers.

Finally, the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists is fully self-funding and costs the Texas taxpayers nothing. In return it provides guaranteed protection for all Texans and all of those that visit our State. Texas has been fortunate

in that we have avoided catastrophes such as the high-profile cases of the Love Canal Tragedy and the Hinkley Groundwater Contamination. We have experienced our own tragedies, though. It was the explosion in the New London, Texas school, which killed almost 300 students and teachers, that caused the national regulation of “Odorization of Gas”. We must not wait for a tragedy such as this to prevent what we know can happen.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: It is recommended to extend the TBPG for another 12 years.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree