

**From:** [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
**To:** [Brittany Calame](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)  
**Date:** Thursday, August 16, 2018 7:51:08 AM

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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 11:18 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: Kathryn

Last Name: Ward

Title: P.G.

Organization you are affiliated with:

Email:

City: Balmorhea

State: Texas

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

I am writing to oppose the recommendation of Sunset Committee staff to abolish the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists and repeal the Texas Geoscientist Practice Act.

As a professional geoscientist in Texas, I have worked with other professional geoscientists at environmental firms, state agencies, and environmental divisions of the oil and gas industry—all who work diligently to ensure certain standards are met to protect groundwater, natural resources, and the public. I was, therefore, surprised to read Sunset's assertion that "State Regulation of Geoscientists Provides No Measurable Public Benefit and Should Be Discontinued." I can assure the Sunset staff that becoming a licensed geoscientist raises the bar for the profession on many ways and benefits the public, even if it is not quantifiable to the staff at this time. The most obvious is general competency: scientific and regulatory knowledge, and continued education. But equally important is following a standard of ethics to ensure professional responsibility and public protection.

Texas is among the majority of states that have adopted licensure for Professional Geoscientists. Geoscience will continue to be highly relevant field in terms of public protection and economic development for the state of Texas. Finally, TBPG provides the state with excess revenue of \$234,381, which has the potential to grow by increasing membership, especially by recruiting more college students to take the GIT test upon graduation.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: I recommend the the agency communicates with Texas universities, both public and private, to encourage graduating geoscience students to take the GIT test.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree