

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Brittany Calame](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Wednesday, August 15, 2018 8:54:54 AM

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

From: sunset@sunset.texas.gov <sunset@sunset.texas.gov> On Behalf Of Texas Sunset Commission
Sent: Wednesday, August 15, 2018 8:54 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: Sydney

Last Name: Weitkunat

Title: Corrective Action Specialist, GIT

Organization you are affiliated with:

Email:

City: Austin

State: Texas

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

As both a citizen and a practicing geologist within the state of Texas, I do not support the abolishment of the TBPG.

While the fact that independent PG's are regulated by "TCEQ" or the "TWDB" is important to consider, it is also important to note that these entities specifically hire Professional Geologists and Professional Engineers to oversee projects or at least provide expertise when there is question of geologic concern at a site. We cannot let the regulated industry become washed out of working licensed geologists with both education and proven ability to apply geological skills to solve complex problems. Abolishing the PG licensure in Texas would be detrimental to human and ecological health. I know, firsthand, that geologists working alongside engineers provides a well-grounded understanding of the effects of remediation on soil and groundwater, and the fate of water quality. As a corrective action specialist, I have found myself helping my engineering peers understand subsurface hydrology concepts. When I review documents and maps, I can rely on the "PG" seal to show me that the person who put them together at least understands something about geology. Simply put, we need licensed engineers, geologists, and (might I propose) Environmental Scientists working together to keep our land and water safe. With water being as precious as it is (and more expensive per gallon than oil), we need real geologists who are proving that they are ethical and devoted to public health. By passing a state licensure exam, keeping up-to-date via continuing education credits, and with motivation to stay involved in scientific communities, we can help create a more knowledgeable and involved community of environmental geologists.

Abolishing a board because it has not had "meaningful" enforcement actions is as good as saying you will not wear a seat belt anymore because you haven't been in a car wreck your whole life.

Yes most PG licensees are currently grandfathered in, but as is commonly known, there is a wide age gap in the geologists of our time. Soon these grandfathered PG'ers will be retiring and we will be left with a need for geologists to fill that gap, with understanding of the ever-evolving environmental problems we face. It would

behoove the state of Texas to have some sort of steady baseline for geologists to do the work that will, no doubt, become even more imperative in the coming years, with oil and gas production to be ramping up (and, as a result, water usage), damaging storms, droughts and human populations on the rise. Abolishing the PG board in Texas would be putting us at a disadvantage.

Finally, if this board is not costing the state any money, in fact it is producing money, and given all of the arguments above, why abolish it?

Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope this helps.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Texas Board of Professional Geologists is operating at a profit. I'd suggest putting that money to use by perhaps conducting a study to see which geology skills are most necessary in the future public health related jobs (at state, city, municipal levels), and then tailoring the test to best reflect such needs.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree