

## The Texas Sunset Commission and Texas Legislature

In their 2014 review of the Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS), the Texas Sunset Commission is recommending that the TDSHS oversight of the mold industry and Texas Mold Assessment and Remediation Rules (TMARR) be discontinued.

The following is an excerpt of the commission's report:

"Texas is one of the few states to adopt licensing requirements for mold businesses, but several indicators suggest this program is redundant and unneeded. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency provides guidance for mold remediation in structures; the American Industrial Hygiene Association, a national entity, provides certification of mold assessors; and multiple other private sector trade groups train and certify mold remediators."

The full report can be downloaded from

[https://www.sunset.texas.gov/public/uploads/files/reports/DSHS%20Staff%20Report\\_1.pdf](https://www.sunset.texas.gov/public/uploads/files/reports/DSHS%20Staff%20Report_1.pdf)

	<b>Name</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Comments</b>
1.	Michael Mcnatt	Plano, TX	
2.	MaryAnn McNatt	Plano, TX	As a Registered Nurse and former Health Inspector in the Air Force, the implications to public health and safety are very concerning. The Texas mold Regulations are critical to preserving indoor air quality.
3.	Kathryn Irby	Gulfport, MS	
5.	Dana Brown	Hurst, TX	This is a goofy and short sided recommendation and proposal. This is an invitation to go backwards in terms consumer protection and quality of service provided by a licensed industry.
6.	Paul Laman	Hurst, TX	
7.	barbara anderson	Irving, TX	this would be such a horrible thing to do to the trusting consumer...I hope more thought is given before this is passed.
8.	Sheila Coker	Conroe, TX	
9.	Chelsea Smith	Forney, TX	
10.	M J Parish	Dallas, TX	
15.	Kaileen Reynolds	Mission, TX	
16.	Jewell Ulrick	Eules, TX	

	<b>Name</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Comments</b>
17.	Joseph Wenzel	West Saint Paul, MN	
18.	Mindy Schoengarth	Richardson, TX	
19.	Nathan Camp	Austin, TX	
20.	Joy Lee	Hurst, TX	
21.	Pam Boland	Grovetown, GA	
22.	Joaquin Madril	Clovis, NM	
23.	Mark Hart	Richmond, TX	
24.	Sandy Gordon	Sugar Land, TX	
25.	Rick Rickels	Houston, TX	Texas is leading the nation in a proactive approach to mold hazards. Let us continue to lead.
26.	Craig Cooper	Gresham, OR	
27.	Elisha Bains	Louisville, CO	
28.	Keshawn Houston	Longmont, CO	
29.	Dena Vandenberg	Denton, TX	
30.	Kayla Houston	Longmont, CO	
31.	Brandon Apple	Milliken, CO	Without regulation, bad things can happen. I live in a state where mold is not regulated, and as a result there are many people who get taken advantage of by contractors claiming to be mold experts, but instead put peoples health and homes at risk. We also see a lot of tenants in unsafe rental conditions, who have no recourse against the landlords because mold is not regulated.
32.	Benjamin Blaiss	Austin, TX	
33.	Alyson Shepherd	Alvin, TX	
34.	Jeff Zunker	San Antonio, TX	
35.	Rick Weir	Elgin, TX	
36.	Tina Yaeger	Austin, TX	
37.	Hollis Horner	Austin, TX	The rules were enacted for a very good reason. Unscrupulous, untrained, and unknowledgeable contractors were taking advantage of Texas homeowners, and driving the cost of mold remediation to what eventually became uninsurable levels. Deregulation at this point would open the field to fraudsters once again, and endanger the health of homeowners, building occupants, and mold remediation workers.
38.	Irma Veloz-Mason	El Paso, TX	As someone with extensive experience in the field,I can attest to the importance of Mold Remediation regulations. I have witnessed homeowners forced to live in trailers in their front yards because of improperly performed mold remediation conducted under the guise of " water restoration services" . Imagine having everything you own , (continues on next page)

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38.	Irma Veloz-Mason	El Paso, TX	<i>(continued from previous page)</i> everything you have worked your whole life for ruined by improperly trained and inadequately regulated companies. Rather than abolish the TMARR how about educating the public regarding improperly performed water restoration and the dangers associated with that.
39.	Justin Hauck	frisco, TX	
40.	Michael Teeling	Richardson, TX	Have you forgotten the sham transactions related to the lack of controls i.e. licensing that occurred only a few years ago?
41.	Juana Sarmiento	Hurst, TX	
42.	Raed Jaber	Dallas, TX	The mold industry MUST be regulated!! Home and business owners and purchasers need the proof of proper remediation, otherwise people will try to cover it up!!
43.	Jace Hassoldt	Lubbock, TX	For the public safety, the mold industry must continue to be regulated.
44.	Chris Jeter	Abilene, TX	I feel the program needs to be updated/modified but by no means eliminated. As an experienced mold remediation contractor that has worked all over the US and other countries, it is vital that regulation stay in place.
45.	Gary Glenn	Abilene, TX	We need regulation over the Mold industry for protection of legal Remediators and the Consumers
46.	Robert Alexander	Carrollton, TX	For the public safety the mold industry MUST continue to be regulated! Home,business owners, and purchasers need the proof of proper remediation!
47.	Luis Acuna	El Paso, TX	
48.	Robert Rawlings	Carrollton, TX	
49.	Eric Farmer	Carrollton, TX	
50.	Ashley Gonzalez	Irving, TX	I also feel deregulation/elimination of current mold regulations is absurd and would certainly be a risk to public health.
51.	Norma Villegas	El Paso, TX	
52.	Denice Williams	Austin, TX	
53.	Daniel Horner	Austin, TX	
54.	Rebecca Lutz	Farmers Branch, TX	I remember before the mold rules were in place. There were many opportunists claiming to be a mold professional without any training. No one knew who to trust. The rules were developed in order to separate those who are trained from those who are not. I do not wish to see Texas return to the chaos and panic that happened (along with multi-million dollar lawsuits) prior to 2003

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56.	Kourosh Mousavian	Carrollton, TX	It's a trouble idea to stop the Mold Regulation requirements, because it is a system keeping contractors from falsifying their expertise, and keeping them in compliance with the rules, and the required in written Protocol provided by Mold Consultants. The final visual inspection and air clearance is a good requirements for them to know that someone will check their work afterwards...
57.	Bob Allen	Fort Worth, TX	
58.	Andre Segura	Dallas, TX	
59.	Raymond Horner	Austin, TX	
60.	Kenneth Chriss	Fort Worth, TX	
61.	Keith Ebner	Irving, TX	
62.	Jayme Beal	Abilene, TX	
63.	Patricia MacGregor Holland	Dallas, TX	
64.	David Schwenk	wichita, KS	If this passes the consumer will left vulnerable to poor quality of work and contractors not being held responsible for proper mold consulting and liability. Please do not consider the Sunset Commissions recommendation. My license # is MRW5992
65.	Frontes McEwen	Spring, TX	
66.	Andy Sanchez	Houston, TX	The mold regulation must stay in place in order to maintain the indoor air quality environment of facilities
67.	David Stiffler	Keller, TX	The deregulation Of TMARR is bad for Texas and for consumers. Deregulation will allow for no oversight in an already sensitive industry. Consumers will have no protection from unscrupulous, inexperienced and unlicensed mold remediation contractors if deregulation occurs. Please do not deregulate this industry.
68.	B W	Essex Jct, VT	
69.	Edward Barganier	Dallas, TX	
70.	Thomas Brick	Houston, TX	
71.	Connie Ross	Abilene, TX	
72.	Wendy Cadmus	Houston, TX	Texas provides a perfect environment for mold growth. Individuals exposed to mold growth need the protection that our sensible regulations provide. Without the regulations I fear that we'll go back to the days when bleach was simply sprayed on mold damaged sheetrock. The regulations protect vulnerable individuals, such as tenants, who don't have as much control over their environment.
73.	Morena Lale	Bastrop, TX	

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75.	Tom Earl	Decatur, TX	
76.	Steven Petersen	Denton, TX	I witnessed the chaos before 2005. Now after 10 years of relative order they're saying never mind I assume because the program isn't generating enough money. Who's going to protect the homeowner now?
77.	Jessica Richardson	Mountain Home, ID	
78.	Amy Olsen	Eules, TX	
80.	Douglas Brown	Hurst, TX	
81.	Edward Kirch	Roanoke, TX	Texas pioneered these regulations and many other states have modeled their programs on it, indicting their far-reaching value.
82.	Jenny Drapela	Houston, TX	
83.	Robert Cochran	Denton, TX	
84.	Justin Clemens	San Antonio, TX	
85.	Rusti Clemens	Boerne, TX	
86.	Alvin Holland	Dallas, TX	Please do not eliminate the mold regulation process in Texas. The process provides public confidence in assurance through certified professionals. Elimination of the process is not in the public interest.
87.	Carrie Clemens	Boerne, TX	
88.	Thomas Nolan	Rockwall, TX	
89.	Zara Chambers	Hurst, TX	
90.	Jessica Allen	HEATH, TX	
91.	Ali Alsaleh	Fort Worth, TX	
92.	Loren wolfe	Georgetown, TX	
93.	Travis Shrader	Austin, TX	
94.	Baronger Bieger	Rockwall, TX	
95.	Charisa Nowell	NRH, TX	
97.	Tom Bieger	Heath, TX	
98.	Richard Hicks	Lewisville, TX	
99.	kathy toffolo	n richland hills, TX	For the safety of the workers removing mold and the ease of mind for the homeowners I believe it is best if these people were properly trained.
100.	John Mondy	Wylie, TX	
101.	Brittany Bieger	Heath, TX	The regulations need to stay in place. Otherwise there will be too many scams, and poor quality repair work. The health of the citizens is on the line here.

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102.	Jean Ann Moster	Overland Park, KS	As a consumer, I find this frightening. As a family member of a mold expert, what right do frauds have to take away business from someone just because right wing fanatics are trying to de-regulate everything.
103.	Andrea Mueller	Dallas, TX	Please do not allow none professional people to do the work that only Professionals in the Mold Industry should be doing. Public health is in jeopardy here!!!!
104.	Edward Laurson	Denver, CO	
105.	Ginger Hill	Lyman, SC	
107.	Chris Caramanica	Peabody, MA	People have to know what they are doing .
108.	Mary Jane Vozel	Washington, PA	
109.	Rick Railsback	Plano, TX	The Texas Mold Rules have provided structure and guidance for the mold assessment & remediation industry. This has been a major plus and protection for Texas consumers.
110.	Leticia Hernandez	Austin, TX	
111.	Teresa Ciha	Hurst, TX	
112.	Barbara Idso	Danville, CA	
113.	Juan Zertuche	Abilene, TX	I work for the Abilene Independent School District and am very concerned with the deregulation of the Mold Industry. My major concern is the professional workmanship quality for the students and faculty in our school buildings. I am also involved with the asbestos in school buildings that cause latent health hazards and/or death. Mold has a more immediate health risk for students and faculty with breathing health conditions. Please do not deregulate the mold industry for the safe sake of professional work quality to keep our students and faculty safe.
114.	Mason Stevens	Austin, TX	
115.	Rodney Goertz	Garland, TX	for the sake of safety for household and or commercial occupants, I feel it is critical to keep and maintain the current state set up and protocol with any mold issues.
116.	ed clemens	boerne, TX	
117.	Travis West	The Woodlands, TX	I find it inconceivable that Texas would try to eliminate these rules! The Texas Mold Rules came about because unscrupulous individuals and companies were offering their services as "mold experts" to the unknowing public. What happened during that period of the "wild, wild, West" was that countless homeowners were hurt by expensive costs, needless work, and harmful exposures to molds created by these untrained "fly-by-nighters!" The State of Texas' consideration to sunset this regulation will have a dramatic impact on the companies who have <i>(continues on next page)</i>

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117.	Travis West	The Woodlands, TX	<p><i>(continued from previous page)</i></p> <p>trained, licensed, and insured themselves to work in this industry. It will have a much more dramatic impact however, on those who have benefited from the professional qualifications that Texas has required for the last ten years. That includes residential and commercial building owners - most importantly - the people who occupy those spaces.</p> <p>The regulation of mold workers in the state of Texas was implemented because of the costs to the insurance industry. The true benefactors of these important regulations however, are the building owners, homeowners, consumers - simply put - the PEOPLE who are affected by unwanted exposure to molds.</p> <p>This law cannot be allowed to sunset. It will hurt people in ways that cannot begin to be understood, for years to come!</p>
118.	Bruce Crabb	Farmers Branch, TX	Those of us remember the days before this licensing went into effect know what a bad idea this is.
119.	Linda Lauver	houston, TX	
120.	Danielle Sullivan	Katy, TX	
121.	J. R. Polomsky	Dallas, TX	Thanks to a company that had "licensed mold inspectors" who were able to provide accurate and comprehensive testing, the claim I filed with the insurance company of my neighbor who caused the damage repeatedly to my home was paid without question. Per the insurance company adjuster.... "without such qualified tests and licensed inspectors that proved beyond a shadow of doubt, the facts spoke loud and clear" The claim was paid in full \$30K+. Keep inspectors and remediation companies separate, so there is no conflict of interest.
122.	Brooke McNatt	Roanoke, TX	
123.	David Roberts	Houston, TX	Deregulating the Mold Industry in Texas is like deregulating the Freeways in Houston, It will not end well!
124.	larry kanter	Dallas, TX	
125.	Jen Valentino	Coventry, RI	
126.	Stan Parish MAC 0360 CIE	Dallas, TX	The Sunset Committee is indicating that this program is redundant and unneeded. You indicate the EPA provides guidance for remediation, but only schools and commercial, not residential. You also indicate the AIHA provides certification for assessors, which is not true. The critical difference between TMARR and other organizations is enforcement of the rules and regulations with penalties and fines for infractions. Lack of enforcement undermines the mold industry, public acceptance, health and welfare. Only TMARR can provide that enforcement that is critically necessary.

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127.	Andrew Berkson	Bullard, TX	This is an important issue for all Texans. We have a home which is just two years old. It has leaked since we moved in and we now have significant mold issues as a result and are involved in a lawsuit with our builder and roofer as a result. It is very important that the people involved in mold inspection, the laboratories as well as those involved in remediation be regulated by the state. This industry is ripe for fraud and abuse and it is important that the State of Texas remain involved for the health and wellbeing of all Texans. Do not deregulate the mold industry.
128.	Helene Firlik	Bedford, TX	Please do not deregulate the Mold Industry. It is very important that we have trained & license people performing mold remediation properly. Our health is at risk if done improperly. It is the humane thing to do. Please protect the population of Texas.
129.	Therese Baer PE	Austin, TX	
130.	Greg Upah	Dallas, TX	The EPA does not have enforceable mold assessment or remediation regulations. Texas was out front and should stay that way in protecting the consumer from fraud.
131.	Mary Carter	Frisco, TX	
132.	Douglas Shotwell	Houston, TX	Over 1,000 species of mold have been identified in US homes and buildings, of which 200 can produce mycotoxins. Some of the mycotoxins produced are carcinogens and others are mutagens and teratogens (birth defects). Mold, when uncontrolled, can be allergenic and exasperate asthma. Other species are pathogenic and cause deep tissue infection that can be fatal. There are millions of dollars spent a year in Texas alone on medical conditions caused by mold, primarily allergies and asthma. The state of Texas experienced a "mold rush" in early 2000. Everyone wanted to get in the mold business. At the time, there were no regulations so anyone could call themselves a mold expert. There were many unethical practitioners in the mold business, and as a result, mold became regulated by the Texas Department of State Health Services in late 2004. With accredited classes, state exams and licenses, it helped to eliminate a lot of the corruption in the mold business. Texas happens to be the leader over all other states with our mold regulations. There are several thousand licensed people employed in the mold business whose jobs would be jeopardized if the TMARR were rescinded. These regulations also create revenue for the state which is used for enforcement to protect public health. Without state oversight, regulation and enforcement, this industry will not regulate itself and again we will see the corruption of early 2000. Keep TMARR in place.

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133.	Sandy Rollins	Dallas, TX	
134.	Christopher Campbell	Austin, TX	Deregulation of TMARR will only leave Texas consumers at risk to health concerns in their homes, work environments, and schools.
135.	Vicki Campbell	Sunrise beach, TX	
136.	Ana Wright	Austin, TX	
137.	Bobby Campbell	Sunrise beach, TX	
138.	Oscar Ramirez	Dallas, TX	
139.	Marilee Nordhaus	Frisco, TX	Without qualified tests and licensed inspectors, homeowners, renters and families in Texas will be hurt and made ill by damages done by not being properly inspected & repaired by qualified separate companies.
140.	HEATHER LOPEZ	FARMERS BRANCH, TX	The Sunset Commission is grossly misinformed on a number of points- a major one being no need for Texas Mold Assessment and Remediation Rules as the certification program provided by AIHA covers it...however, SUCH CERTIFICATION BY AIHA SIMPLY DOES NOT EXIST! The public depends on TMARR's certifications and regulations to protect them from unscrupulous or otherwise unqualified practices in the industry that abound before they were put in place. Consumer protection. Worker and building occupant health protection. This is what will be directly affected should deregulation pass. This could have a direct negative effect on you at some point! Get the word out and be heard!
141.	Maryanne Lobo	Little Elm, TX	
142.	Dorothy DeRouchey	Frisco, TX	
143.	Anna Marie Maly	Bedford, TX	Mold is not only disgusting, but black mold is a potential killer as it contains a fungus that can be detrimental to health. Many landlords are negligent in maintenance of their properties. This will allow them the freedom to let mold grow in their buildings or treat it themselves with inadequate methods. This would create horrible consequences for their tenants. .Please do not deregulate the laws that are in place. People need to know that the State of Texas cares about substances that are potentially hazardous to our health and will do all they can to prevent this from happening.
144.	Rob Greene	North Richland Hills, TX	Keep the Industrial Hygiene / Indoor Air Quality (Mold) Industry strong: I have worked in the industry prior to the Texas Mold Laws. The industry was fast and loose and didn't represent the end-user, the home-owner well. The lack of "Conflict of interest" between Mold Assessors, Mold Remediator and Mold Laboratories has been very influential in keeping our <i>(continues on next page)</i>

	Name	From	Comments
144.	Rob Greene	North Richland Hills, TX	<p><i>(continued from previous page)</i></p> <p>interests solely on providing the best quality we can possibly provide. I have trained for years as an microbiologist/mycologist at Moody Labs and have honed my skills substantially. My analysis and my company fall under the purview of an AIHA accreditation. Perhaps as much as a 5% of our time as a department is spent in daily, monthly, yearly, and bi-annual accreditation activities. We reanalyze more than 10% of our samples as duplicates, we perform multiple daily tests, quarterly tests, yearly audits, and bi-annual onsite inspections. There is a presumption in the Sunset review that Mold Assessors and Mold Remediators also had access to a national accreditation / certification that resembles what AIHA offers Mold Labs. This is completely untrue. Without the current requirements for; education and training, licensing, continuing education, required insurance/bond, what might the state of the Mold Industry in Texas look like? What would happen to the value of any Texan home that experiences future mold damage and mold cleanup? What would happen if we repeated events like Hurricane Rita, Ike, or even worse, Katrina in Texas? Our system may not be perfect but the vast majority of us have strived to put out the best quality work and meet the highest of standards. I certainly hope Texas continues to ensure we all have the opportunity to continue to do so. Rest assured that Moody Labs was around before the existing set of Mold Rules, we perfected and improved our operation during this tenure of the rules, and we will continue on afterwards regardless of the outcome. But we all should work our hardest to ensure that we Texas employees of these Texas businesses continue to offer the highest quality of service to our predominantly Texan clients. Keep these Texas regulations lean and strong for Texans.</p>
145.	Michael Mitchell	Dallas, TX	
147.	Donald Schaezler	Cibolo, TX	
148.	Chelsea Osborn	Lewisville, TX	
149.	David Acosta	Austin, TX	
150.	HENRY CUMMINGS	DALLAS, TX	<p>I'm concerned because I wouldn't feel comfortable in my house knowing that it has not been repaired according to protocol. Mold is a very dangerous thing and it shouldn't be taken lightly. Life is too valuable to take chances with people that don't have the proper training and knowledge as well.</p>
151.	Dan St. Clair	Mansfield, TX	
152.	Zane Rhea	Lewisville, TX	
153.	Chad Osborn	Lewisville, TX	

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154.	Shelli Piva	Santa Rosa, CA	
155.	Terry Adams	Lubbock, TX	Deregulating TMARR would be a mistake in my opinion. Not only will the public become a victim to unscrupulous individuals but the public will have no place to verify an individual's claim that they have the knowledge, experience and training necessary to perform the task at hand placing individuals at potential risk from exposure. Secondly, the signatures on the CMDR form (an insurance board form) will become worthless to the insurance industry to signify remediation in compliance with industry standards (especially those promulgated by DSHS).
156.	Christy Neher	Dallas, TX	
157.	Katie Vrana	Forney, TX	Our wonderful state has been on the forefront to protect consumers from unscrupulous mold remediation tactics. It would be a shame to backslide now. Keep TMARR!
158.	Nancy Sanderson	Charlotte, NC	
159.	Josh Newburn	dallas, TX	
160.	Casey Carville	Austin, TX	
161.	Ellen Edwards	Ft. Worth, TX	I only want certified professionals diagnosing and treating mold in my home.
162.	Wes Retherford	Gatesville, TX	The same critical thinking that put TMARR into existence has not gone away. Refining the rules would be a good idea...eliminating them would not.
165.	Barbara Vieira	Staten Island, NY	