

October 19, 2018

Senator Brian Birdwell, Chair  
Representative Chris Paddie, Vice Chair  
Sunset Advisory Commission  
1501 North Congress Avenue  
6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Robert E. Johnson Building  
Austin, TX 78701

Re: Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists

Senator Birdwell and Representative Paddie:

We are writing on behalf of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) to express our concerns with the Sunset Advisory Commission's recommendation to repeal the Texas Geoscience Practice Act. ASCE represents more than 146,000 members of the civil engineering profession, including nearly 10,000 members in Texas. Founded in 1852, ASCE is the nation's oldest engineering society, and we stand at the forefront of a profession that plans, designs, constructs, and operates society's economic and social engine – the built environment – while protecting and restoring the natural environment.

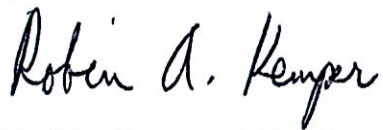
The Geo-Institute (G-I) is a membership organization focused on geo-professionals and the geo-industry. It was created by the American Society of Civil Engineers in October 1996 as one of ASCE's specialty Institutes. ASCE asks that you reconsider your recommendations and instead keep the Texas Geoscience Practice Act in place and that the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists be left in place.

Professional Engineers work together with Geoscientists to partner on work that protects public health, safety and welfare. This includes landfill liner design, erosion control, groundwater and surface water supply, construction of roads and pipelines, and road and bridge construction. Regulation of Geoscientists through professional licensure serves to protect the public and to provide Professional Engineers with reliable, expert partners on these important projects. The regulation of Geoscientists has helped to improve the overall quality of geoscientific work in Texas.

Professional licensure is meant to protect and enhance the health, safety and welfare of the public. Licensure assures the public that the practice of engineering is undertaken in a manner consistent with applicable codes of professional conduct. The licensure requirements of education, examination, experience and continuing professional development are intended to achieve that purpose.

Any effort to eliminate the current licensure requirements for Professional Geoscientists in Texas would simply not provide any economic benefit for the state. In fact, it could place Texas residents at risk by jeopardizing the public health, safety and welfare that licensed professionals are obligated to protect.

Sincerely,



Robin A. Kemper, P.E., LEED AP, F. SEI, F.ASCE  
2019 ASCE President



Beth Gross, Ph.D., P.E., D.GE, F.ASCE  
President, Geo-Institute of ASCE