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## TEXAS BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYING 2018-2019 SUNSET REVIEW

December 4, 2018

- ***The Texas Society of Professional Surveyors (TSPS)*** is a professional association with more than 1,600 members who are Registered Professional Land Surveyors licensed and regulated by the Texas Board of Professional Land Surveying (*TBPLS*). The mission of TSPS is to aid and contribute to the education of its members and the general public in attaining high surveying standards, both technical and ethical.
- ***Sunset Advisory Commission Staff Report*** – As part of the Sunset Review process, the Sunset Commission Staff recently issued a Staff Report which found that Texas has a clear, ongoing need to regulate the practice of land surveying ... but recommended the consolidation of TBPLS with the Texas Board of Professional Engineers.
- ***TBPLS Response to the Sunset Advisory Commission Staff Report*** – On November 26, 2018, the TBPLS issued its response to the Sunset Advisory Committee Staff Report. The full TBPLS Response is available at <http://txls.texas.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/TBPLS-Response.pdf>. In its Response, TBPLS provided a detailed corrective action plan designed to address and remedy the deficiencies/concerns noted by the Sunset Staff as enumerated in Issues 1 and 2 regarding the enforcement process, reliable performance data, budgetary management, licensure requirements, the registration renewal process, the examination process, enforcement policies, practice standards, confidentiality, and transparency. As noted in the TBPLS Response, many of these administrative changes/corrections could be implemented immediately, with the exception of those that require statutory change.
- ***Proposed Consolidation of TBPLS With the Board of Professional Engineers*** – The mission of the TBPLS is to establish and enforce standards ensuring the competency of individuals licensed as land surveyors resulting in the orderly use of our physical environment for the protection of our citizens, the current and future property owners of Texas. The Board's objective is to regulate the land surveying profession through the licensure of competent individuals selected through an examination process and maintaining proficiency through continuing education requirements. The key functions of the Board are examination, licensing and enforcement.

The continuation of TBPLS as an independent licensing agency which is functional and vital in carrying out its duties of oversight, rule review/development, regulation, and enforcement of the surveying profession is essential in order to maintain the necessary level of protection for the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Texas.

There is no other agency, state or federal, whose functions overlap or duplicate those of this Board. How land boundaries are laid out in Texas is unique from how boundaries are laid out in other states. Considering the uniqueness of the profession, and the fact that there is no duplication with other agencies, the functions are placed appropriately in this stand-alone agency as opposed to under another agency or an umbrella agency.

**TSPS Analysis/Response** – TSPS has analyzed the Sunset Commission Staff Report and the TBPLS Response. TSPS acknowledges the deficiencies/concerns regarding the TBPLS and its current operations as noted by Staff. Fortunately, however, the Sunset Staff and the TBPLS have given us a plan which will allow the TBPLS Board members to remedy these problems over the short term within the small agency setting. TSPS believes that the regulation of the surveying profession by the TBPLS as an independent licensing agency is essential in order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Texas.

Therefore, **TSPS Respectfully Requests that the Members of the Sunset Advisory Commission support the TBPLS** by voting to continue it in existence as an independent licensing agency for another 12 years which is necessary for the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Texas.

Thank you for your consideration. Please call any of us if you have questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,



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