

718 Yaupon Valley Road
Austin, TX 78746
November 7, 2011

Board of Directors
Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists
P. O. Box 13225
Austin, TX 78711

Directors of TBPG:

My name is Peter R. Rose. I am a Texas geoscientist with more than 52 years of professional experience in academic, government, corporate, and private practice. Now retired, I was previously a member of the American Institute of Professional Geoscientists (AIPG), and the Society of Independent Professional Earth Scientists (SIPES). I was Texas licensed professional geoscientist # 72. I was very active in the campaign to secure state licensure of professional geoscientists in Texas, especially on behalf of Texas private-sector petroleum geoscientists supporting state licensure of their fellow geoscientists, who were employed generally in professional assignments that impacted the public health, safety, and welfare of residents of the State of Texas. My professional resume is attached hereto.

I am today representing the Austin Geological Society (membership 180), of which I am currently President-elect. However, I am also (2005-06) Past-President of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG), the largest geological association in the world, with more than 35,000 members (more than 9,000 in Texas alone). I am a Life Member of AAPG's Division of Professional Affairs.

We strongly applaud the Board's recently announced proposal to withdraw proposed rules changes 22 TAC #851.33, #851.34, and amendment to 22 TAC # 851.10. These proposed changes, if adopted, would have been counter to the language of the enabling language of the bill that created the TBPG in 2002. They would have placed professional resource geoscientists working in Texas in the private domain under State of Texas oversight. They would also have placed geoscientists working in Texas universities and colleges, as well as research geoscientists associated with such academic institutions, under State oversight, in total disregard of the spirit and language of the original founding bill.

As the direct result of this ill-considered rules proposal, Texas professional resource geoscientists, who are numerous and well-connected (as well as many corporations who employ them), are now up in arms against the TBPG. These are the very people whose continued good faith and financial support allowed the original bill to finally be signed into law nearly 10 years ago. Many Texas academicians and research geoscientists are similarly offended. Your actions have caused many of these non-licensed professionals (as well as many licensed Texas geoscientists) to lose confidence in the judgment and intentions of the TBPG.

What in the world were you people thinking? Where was the informed independent oversight and guidance which Board members are supposed to provide to the Executive Director?

In a sincere effort to try and understand the motivation and reasoning behind the origin of the proposed rules changes, I am here specifically requesting from the TBPG Director and Board members a documented account as to what suggestions, instructions or recommendations -- and from whom -- led to the formation of the TBPG subcommittee that considered them in the first place. Who is behind this, and why? We look forward to your forthright responses to these questions.

Speaking now personally, I, for one, still believe strongly in the original intent of the bill that established the TBPG, and I will try to communicate that support to my fellow petroleum geoscientists and academic colleagues. However, I would respectfully suggest that the Board also consider making a timely public gesture indicating that you have collectively “gotten the message”. Possible appropriate measures might include the immediate departure of Executive Director Horton, or the resignation of some board members, to be replaced by licensed geoscientists who are more knowledgeable about geoscientific practice in the private sector and in academic research, or by members representing the public interest, who may show more interest in understanding the issues. I would also respectfully opine that, if no such departures from the TBPG Board and/or staff are forthcoming, the Texas geoscience community may well perceive political manipulation aimed at the elimination of the TBPG, by those who might benefit by its absence. Other members of the Austin Geological Society, as well as other Texas petroleum geologists, share these opinions with me.

Thank you for the opportunity to communicate these concerns to you.

Very truly yours,

Peter R. Rose, Ph. D.