

LICENSING TASK FORCE
BENEFITS & DETRIMENTS
OF
ENACTING RECOMMENDATION TO SEEK LICENSING OF LANDMEN

BENEFITS

Control public landwork practitioners to include only those who:

- are not criminals or unethical actors (ethics and enforcement)
- possess at least minimum levels of training and experience
- have certain minimum levels of knowledge and skills (competency testing)
- possess at least minimum levels of education (college degree)
- submit to continuing education, including ethics
- adopt standards of practice

Protects the public interest

Strengthens and protects AAPL-approved PLM and ELM university degree programs

Increases stature of land professionals and adds a measure of parity with peer professions (geologists, geophysicists, engineers, etc)

Independent Board comprised primarily of CPLs (rather than Texas Real Estate Commission or similar)¹

Seamless transition for CPLs and RPLs with no noticeable change

Higher rates for independent landmen

Secures acceptable model bill in landman-friendly Texas first for later use in less landman-friendly states

Provides basis for public relations program and advertising (“deal only with licensed landmen”)

Adds benefits to reputation of landmen in communities where they work

¹ HillCo Partners and key legislators think that an independent board can be achieved. Geoscientists (www.tbpg.state.tx.us) and Engineers (www.tbpe.state.tx.us) succeeded in Texas with legislative acts on this basis in recent years, helping establish the precedent.

DETRIMENTS

Risk of hodge-podge licensing requirements among various states

Risk loss of control of bill resulting in catastrophic outcome (Texas Real Estate Commission, UPL, etc)

Limits pool of potential future landmen²

Possible increased governmental involvement

Potential high license fees

May result in insurance or bonding requirement

Larger burden on AAPL and others to provide continuing education and competency testing

Higher costs for those who hire independent landmen

² U.S. Census figures reflect ever increasing number of college graduates (nearly 30% of U.S. population 25 years and older hold bachelors degrees or higher).