

Dear Joint Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Natural Resources.

I am writing you today to request that State funding NOT be reduced or eliminated for the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, DOGAMI, specifically the Geological Survey and Services, GSS, program. DOGAMI has a long history of providing needed geologic and environmental information to the citizens and industries of Oregon. And in today's global climate crisis we need all the resources we can to ensure the consequences of the changing climate are accurately assessed and mitigated for. As Oregon and the World try to deal with the changing climate, it is essential that organizations like DOGAMI continue to investigate and document our geologic and natural environments.

DOGAMI also oversees the Oregon Lidar Consortium, OLC, which is a critical program in accurately mapping the State's geomorphology, vegetation coverage and land development, and which is essential in modern day land development and conservation activities alike.

I personally work in the Dam Safety Industry and I use DOGAMI's publications and research on a daily basis. Just last week I was working on a major High Hazard dam in Oregon that was recently identified as being vulnerable to a newly mapped active fault. This fault was identified in just the past few years through work of DOGAMI. Without DOGAMI's efforts this fault may have never been identified, and the needed repairs and improvements to this High Hazard dam may have never occurred. Future movement of this fault could generate an earthquake that could cause failure of this dam and kill many Oregonians. The work of DOGAMI in identifying this fault will save lives. Identification of this one fault will pay out benefits to Oregonians far in excess of DOGAMI's biennial budget. And this is just one dam of many hundreds in Oregon where DOGAMI's research provides valuable insight.

DOGAMI is not just an obscure scientific and engineering organization. It is an organization that has provided needed research and information that has saved countless lives and billions of dollars of taxpayer money through identification of geologic and environmental hazards. By eliminating DOGAMI's funding you would essentially be allowing Oregonians to die in the future from natural disasters that could have been identified and dealt with before they happened.

Regards,

Christopher Humphrey