

My family moved to Oregon from Missouri in 1846 and has included Oregon doctors, lawyers, lumbermen, and a Senator. I broke with several generations of loggers to become a geologist. When I returned home to Oregon after the Army, during college I worked for DOGAMI as a student and I saw the passion and dedication the people that make DOGAMI the scientific authority it has become. It was inspiring to me to work with these wonderfully brilliant people and I have through my 20 plus years as a professional geologist in Oregon been attached to DOGAMI for fresh new maps and data that help me make decisions that have significant life and property implications. The incredible resource DOGAMI provides has dwindled in recent years as funding and support is reduced. However, the need for more information produced by DOGAMI is even more important. The population increase in Oregon has required more development on land in steep terrain. In my career I have seen more than one home destroyed by an existing landslide that reactivated during a wet year. DOGAMI identifies and maps existing landslides to protect people from real world devastation. As an engineering geologist working identifying natural hazards, I see the danger on the roadside that you drive by without noticing. I have seen the value DOGAMI provides to public safety and have watched support and services diminish. We drive our cars with brakes, seat belts, and airbags to protect ourselves from the almost inevitable collision. I hope that this committee can understand the "seat belt" of protection DOGAMI provides the public and find a way to fund the agency. After almost 180 years in Oregon I am probably related to many other Oregonians and want all of my family to be safe and protected from harm. Protection and safety require preparation and DOGAMI is our first responder to natural geologic hazards that are active in Oregon. Please find a way to support DOGAMI. Thank you for your time and your hard work.