

February 2, 2021

Dear Co-Chairs and Subcommittee Members:

I have prepared this letter in support of the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) and in opposition of the budget cuts and elimination of DOGAMI in Governor Brown's budget and in HB 5010. The elimination of DOGAMI will have a severe negative impact on my profession and the residents of and visitors to Oregon.

I am a registered Professional Geologist (RG) and Certified Engineering Geologist (CEG) and I have been working in consulting in Oregon for the past 23 years. I have worked on over 1,000 projects throughout the state, including over 200 site-specific seismic hazard studies. I have also volunteered discussing geology in Elementary classrooms and developing tests and monitoring geology competitions for the Oregon Science Olympiad. All of this work was completed utilizing geologic information provided by DOGAMI.

Most of my work is done in accordance with Oregon Structural Specialty Code (OSSC) and Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) guidelines to help ensure that facilities and structures are built to reduce the risk of collapse or failure due to geologic and seismic hazards. In my work, I review, research, and cite information from DOGAMI on a DAILY basis. Without their maps, reports, website viewers, and LiDAR imaging, I would not be able to complete my work. DOGAMI is continually mapping areas across the State, improving and updating geologic and seismic hazard maps, and providing information to educate the residents and visitors.

Geology is all around us and it impacts our lives everyday including the food you eat, the clothes you wear, the car you drive, the roads you drive on, and the buildings or structures in which you live and work. How can a department this valuable to so many disciplines be cut from the State's budget? All 50 states and Puerto Rico have State Geologic Surveys, and somehow fit it in their budget.

I understand funds must be cut to balance the budget, I also understand eliminating DOGAMI would only reduce the budget by \$3 million dollars. Unfortunately, Oregon and the Pacific Northwest are overdue for a Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ) megathrust earthquake and there are other natural or geologic disasters that can occur at any time. When a natural disaster happens, it will reflect poorly on our elected officials who eliminated the one agency that is tasked with evaluating geologic and seismic hazards. The media will have a field day and the state will be held up as an embarrassing example of what not to do. When such a geologic catastrophe occurs, there will be an immediate call to restore DOGAMI and it will cost significantly more than \$3 million dollars, it will take valuable time, and it will be without the experienced and skilled professionals that currently work at the agency.

Please oppose HB 5010 and retain DOGAMI.

Sincerely,



Brooke Running, R.G., C.E.G.