

From: Scott Bennett  
2120 NE Halsey Street, #31  
Portland, OR 97232

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To: Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources

I am writing as a citizen of Oregon, concerned that the Oregon legislature is considering disbanding and/or cutting funding to the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI), as outlined in the Governor's budget and HB 5010. As such, I write today with my full support to not only retain DOGAMI as the valued agency that it is, but to maintain or increase its funding levels.

DOGAMI and its staff are critical to public safety and better understanding deadly and expensive natural hazards related to earthquakes, tsunamis, landslides, flooding and more. DOGAMI is also instrumental in assessing the natural resource potential across the state. DOGAMI staff have been at the forefront of research related to these and other Earth science topics are renowned across the United States as a highly respected state agency that conducts and communicates cutting-edge science. Additionally, DOGAMI has a long history of providing critical scientific data to decision makers and land-use planners at local, state, and federal agencies regarding these hazards and resources.

Any reduction in funding or staff at DOGAMI would prove detrimental to citizens of Oregon. The value of DOGAMI is incredible; imagine the potential lives and infrastructure protected for centuries to come thanks to the earthquake, landslide, and tsunami research conducted by an agency with a relatively small budget. The return on investment with a fully funded and strongly supported DOGAMI is incredibly high for Oregonians. If any changes to DOGAMI's budget should be considered, the Governor and state legislature should instead increase DOGAMI's budget to add new staff and expand the vital science they already conduct.

I fully support DOGAMI and their work and look forward to a strong and well-funded DOGAMI agency that continues to benefit all Oregonians.

Sincerely,



Scott Bennett