

February 2nd, 2021

Re: The Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources

The Oregon Lidar Consortium (OLC) administered by The Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) has brought together state, local, and federal partners to fund large-scale projects throughout the State of Oregon since 2007. The consortium model provides small communities, agencies, and groups with the ability to collect valuable lidar data for their projects that they could otherwise not afford. Once a lidar project is completed, the data is provided to the public free of charge through [DOGAMI's lidar data viewer](#). The data are also distributed by Oregon State University to the entire Oregon University System. OLC data is known for its consistent quality and rigorous quality control. The rigor of the program is unique to DOGAMI and has many positive outcomes.

Oregon data users can freely contact DOGAMI with questions about any data, as well as ask about how to use the data for their individual projects. DOGAMI's level of service is unprecedented in the United States and serves as a goal for many states and federal programs. The program is also unusual in that it staffs lidar experts. Their staff not only stay up to speed with the latest technology but are aware of the applications of lidar data throughout the country. The choice to have dedicated lidar expertise on staff improves DOGAMI's ability to perform quality checks on the data they receive, help others design lidar projects, provide guidance on state/federal programs, and help the public and private constituents throughout Oregon. DOGAMI is seen throughout the country as a trusted advisor and leader in the geospatial community.

DOGAMI's free library of data allows university students and professionals throughout Oregon (and the U.S.) to access high-quality data to test theories, create algorithmic models, assess change over time, and so much more. OLC data is frequently the backbone of graduate studies and professional projects. It could be said that Oregonians take this service for granted as it has been consistently available for more than a decade, and it is true that with the rise of the USGS 3DEP program, the OLC could be seen as redundant. It should be noted that the USGS 3DEP program may expire as soon as 2022-2023, at which time the services provided by the OLC will become extremely valuable to many Oregon stakeholders. Even with large federal programs with similar objectives, the OLC has continued to provide value to state, local, and federal programs through organization of new projects.

Lidar data has become a necessity for the industries of architectural and engineering, electric utilities, gas utilities, and all-natural resource agencies. It is used for pre-design topographic assessments and saves thousands or millions of dollars in site visits. It is used to detect hazards, It is used to assess forestry plots and board feet for timber companies. It is also used to assess hazards such as flood extents, landslides, volcanic hazards, shoreline erosion, and earthquake seismic zones, all of which are critical to Oregon's future. DOGAMI and the programs it administers provide great value to Oregon's scientific endeavors, safety, and economy. We sincerely hope that the OLC and other DOGAMI programs continue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Hickey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" and last name "Hickey" clearly distinguishable.

Robert Hickey
Senior Vice President
NV5 Geospatial
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