

FROM: Margaret Steele, MD
President, Emergency Volunteer Corps of Nehalem Bay

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TO: Members, Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee On Natural Resources

My name is Margaret Steele. I am the President of the Emergency Volunteer Corps of Nehalem Bay (EVCNB). Our all-volunteer non-profit organization was founded in early 2008, after the severe windstorms of December 2007, to provide information and training to increase our communities' preparedness for disasters. While of course our area is susceptible to many kinds of natural disasters, including floods, wildfires, landslides, and even a tornado, the biggest disaster we need to prepare for is a Cascadia earthquake and tsunami, which will massively damage the entire Oregon coast.

Since we began our work, we have depended on and benefited from scientific information and support from DOGAMI to inform our community preparedness and resilience-building mission. DOGAMI's detailed coastal inundation maps have allowed us to define areas within and outside the tsunami inundation zone, informing the development of our many preparedness programs, which include Emergency Communications, Emergency Response (CERT, Medical Reserve Corps, and Mass Care), and Community Training, including WaSH, Camping at Home, Wayfinding (evacuation routes), Emergency food recommendations, and a robust Neighbors Helping Neighbors program. We have shared our programs with other communities in Tillamook County, as well as other coastal communities. We work with our local cities and agencies to help them plan their own emergency preparations, and our volunteers will be a significant force multiplier for emergency response.

DOGAMI's work was instrumental in developing the Oregon Resilience Plan, which has given us a sobering view of the degree of destruction we can expect on the Oregon Coast, and spurred us to become as prepared as possible to survive and recover after such a massive disaster.

The EVCNB strongly supports maintaining DOGAMI's integrity, and fully funding it so that its critical scientific work can continue uninterrupted and free of the uncertainty of fluctuating funding. Oregon's natural disaster risk is not lessening, and our commitment to improving our state's resilience should not lessen either. DOGAMI is an integral part of these resilience efforts.