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February 3, 2021

Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources

Co-Chair Taylor  
Co-Chair Reardon  
Members of the Natural Resources Subcommittee

Testimony of Debbie Moberly from Tillamook County representing the Emergency Corps of Nehalem Bay (EVCNB)

To learn that your committee and Governor Brown had decided against the plan that would lead to the dissolution of DOGAMI was a big relief. There is no doubt that there are many hurdles to overcome in keeping them as an independent agency, but thank you for choosing this direction.

EVCNB an organization dedicated to building personal, community and regional resilience in the Nehalem Bay region. We do this by:

- Teaching and encouraging personal preparedness to our citizens
- Developing and deploying systems for community-wide emergency response
- Partnering with municipalities, other organizations and collaboratives within and beyond the Nehalem Bay communities to share our expertise as we learn from others.

EVCNB is celebrating 13 years of existence this month. As a board member, I am responsible for Community Engagement. DOGAMI has and continues to be a critical partner in our work of emergency preparedness. When DOGAMI comes to town to provide the keynote address for an outreach meeting, the community responds. Before COVID, they “packed the house” at our community center. With COVID, registration went beyond our Zoom attendee limit, making it necessary to livestream on YouTube. You see ..... this is because DOGAMI has been an exceptional partner with EVCNB, both technically and in community-building.

As a volunteer organization, we work hard with our citizens, businesses and municipalities of Manzanita, Wheeler, Nehalem and the surrounding areas to be ready for the predicted Cascadia Subduction zone earthquake and tsunami. With the help of DOGAMI, through their research, mapping, and ability to translate their science into understandable messaging, we know where to go to get to high ground and how long we have to get there. Their involvement provides the studies and data necessary to convince people that the training and tools that EVCNB offers, are necessary to save their own lives and the lives of others. From their work, we understand and accept that it will be impossible for “outside” help to immediately come to our rescue and that we will be isolated and on our own for weeks, if not longer. Their ongoing work informs our planning and projects for what we have to do to save ourselves.

EVCNB encourages your committee to restore support from the general fund, reduce the dependency on unstable grant funding for essential work and services, and to take into account restoration of critical expertise that may have been lost during the recent years. These dollars will save lives.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak up on this important matter.