

Date: February 3, 2021

RE: HOUSE BILL 5010 RELATING TO DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES FUNDING

Co-Chairs Taylor and Reardon, and Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources:

I have prepared this letter in support of the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) and in opposition to the budget cuts and consolidation of DOGAMI as part of Governor Brown's budget as included in HB 5010. DOGAMI serves a unique purpose and plays an important role in providing Oregonians with critical geological data and geospatial information.

I am a partner with River Design Group, Inc., a river engineering firm located in Corvallis, Oregon. We work with federal, state, and tribal agencies, non-governmental organizations, private landowners, and others to assess and improve water resources and aquatic habitats. We rely on Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) data to create maps necessary for assessing river corridor conditions and to analyze project alternatives. DOGAMI has been instrumental in the acquisition, management, and distribution of LiDAR datasets in Oregon. Program continuity will be essential for the continued availability of these critical datasets for public use.

My firm also partners with non-governmental organizations and aggregate resource companies to rehabilitate floodplain properties following resource extraction. DOGAMI's Mineral Land Regulation & Reclamation (MLRR) division maintains historical information on mining permits that are important for understanding river processes and formulating mine site rehabilitation strategies. MLRR staff are well-informed, knowledgeable, and provide invaluable assistance. MLRR staff balance the needs of aggregate resource operators, Oregon's valuable resources, and the needs of Oregonians.

As Oregon's population expands and we face growing impacts from climate change, the importance of DOGAMI's role in informing Oregon residents about geologic hazards will only increase. We are overdue for a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake and this past summer's fires have alerted impacted residents to the hazards of post-fire landslides and mudflows. DOGAMI has been a critical source of information on these issues for Oregonians.

Please consider maintaining DOGAMI as a standalone agency and appropriately fund DOGAMI so that the agency can continue its important missions.

Respectfully,



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