

February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Ways & Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources

**RE: DOGAMI BUDGET CUT CONCERNS**

Subcommittee members,

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. I am master's candidate in applied geosciences at the University of Washington. I completed my bachelor's degree at Portland State University in geology. While I am glad to hear that the committee is not attempting to completely cut DOGAMI, I have many concerns regarding the considerations being made for restructuring.

I am currently researching fault activity on the northern margin of the Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ). Great CSZ earthquakes generate large magnitude earthquakes, tsunamis and devastating landslides. My research is currently showing uplift of land at amounts that could destroy coastal towns. This is one problem looming over the heads of Oregonians – and the first thing people ask me about when they find out I'm a geologist. "When's the big one going to hit?" Well, wouldn't you like to have an answer? Right now, Oregon has an excellent reputation for hazard assessment and analysis. People all over the country are eager to work with Oregon geologists. Eliminating the State Geologist position hurts the state's credibility. Additionally, the position is needed to proctor licensure exams. The state needs more geologists, more heads put together to make sure that Oregon is prepared for this inevitable quake that could hit any day.

Putting earthquakes aside, Oregon is prone to flooding and landslides as well. The safety of the entire state cannot be put in one person's hand. This job is too important, and the scope is too large. Laying off DOGAMI employees will result in losing many geologists and engineers that have dedicated their lives to protecting Oregonians.

I am also very concerned about the elimination of the LIDAR program. These data are crucial for hazard mapping. It is just not feasible to for any entity to physically map every potential and historic slope failure in the state. The vegetation is so thick, people rely on the LIDAR imagery to provide valuable information of the ground surface. Additionally, LIDAR is

so crucial to academia. The only way we can continue to learn more about geo-hazards and the dynamic landscape of the Pacific Northwest is to bring it to the classroom setting, the office, a meeting room. LIDAR imagery is necessary for any sort of Geographic Information System (GIS) to analyze a slope, changing topography, fault activity, and many more.

The Columbia River Gorge is still suffering in the form of landslides from the Eagle Creek fire. If the state ever wants to return the gorge to its former glory – it will need help from geologists to make sure it is safe. To help rebuild the trails. To observe changes in the hillslopes.

For all of these reasons and more I implore the subcommittee to consider DOGAMI as an entire agency, maintain the LIDAR program and keep the State Geologist position. Not only as a student, but as an Oregonian concerned for the safety of my community.

I appreciate the time you took to read this letter and I hope you will take my considerations to heart.

Thank you,

Elise Freeman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elise Freeman', with a stylized, flowing script.

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