

February 3, 2021

Members of the Ways & Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources

SUBJECT: DOGAMI BUDGET

Dear Committee Members:

I am writing in support of fully funding DOGAMI's budget. As a Registered Geologist in Oregon, I understand the value in having scientifically robust geologic and natural hazards information for the State of Oregon. DOGAMI provides many key services to the people of Oregon, including the following:

- Collecting high resolution LIDAR topographic data which is critical for mapping landslides, river channel migration zones, floodplains, tsunami run-up zones, and for numerous other purposes which serve the people of Oregon. This information is daily used by geology and engineering consultants, land use planners, universities, and local governments for a myriad of purposes serving the public good. This publically-available data allows consultants to access LIDAR data quickly in order to efficiently serve the needs of their public and private sector clients.
- Educating the public about natural hazards, which in turn helps to keep natural hazards from becoming natural disasters. With Oregon's many natural hazards, including flooding, landslides, earthquakes, tsunamis, coastal hazards, and volcanic eruptions, educating the public and providing information so that citizens can make informed choices is incredibly important. The recent huge wildfires this past summer and the Eagle Creek Fire in the Columbia River Gorge in 2017 have both lead to increased landslide risks, and unfortunately, fatalities.
- Providing geologic mapping, which supports informed urban and rural development, provides key information about natural hazards, is used to protect natural resources, and is used to help locate key natural materials for a healthy economy.
- The Mineral Lands Regulation and Reclamation (MLRR) program is key to regulating mining in Oregon for the protection of the environment, while the mining industry provides raw materials for Oregon's economy and family wage jobs. The MLLR program has an excellent track record of maximizing mine reclamation for the benefit of Oregon's economy and quality of life.

DOGAMI's contributions to the people of Oregon far outweigh the cost of their budget. While I certainly understand that the COVID-19 pandemic is forcing some tough budget choices, I encourage you to take a long-term view and continue to fund DOGAMI in the long term for the health, safety, and economic benefit of all Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Linda Mark, RG