

February 1, 2021

Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Subject: Oppose HB 5010

Dear Co-Chair Taylor, Co-Chair Reardon and Members of the Natural Resources Subcommittee,

I and over 1,800 concerned citizens strongly **oppose House Bill 5010** on the grounds that, if unamended and passed, it will jeopardize Oregonians' safety by eliminating the independent, scientific agency Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI).

I am a professional engineer who worked at DOGAMI for 26 years and am a former Chair of the Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission. DOGAMI provides unbiased, objective specialized information that benefits every Oregonian, is used by every county in Oregon, and provides the basis of informed decision making related to geologic resources and geological hazards.

DOGAMI's work is trusted by community leaders, professionals, educators and citizens. Because such work would not be received as credible coming from a non-scientific state agency, the Geological Society of Oregon Country and I launched this petition to "**Save DOGAMI to Protect Oregon from Natural Disasters!**" <https://www.change.org/SaveDOGAMI>. More than 1,800 petition signers are informing you, the Oregon Legislature, that DOGAMI should remain a stand-alone agency. I have included one single comment below. Please refer to the online petition to read the comments intended for you.

Kathryn Schulz (2016 Pulitzer Prize winner for her article *The Really Big One* in The New Yorker) commented, "One lesson of the coronavirus pandemic is that we cannot afford to gut or eliminate the governmental entities that help prepare us for disaster. Whatever the cost, they are an absolute bargain compared to the price, in both dollars and lives, of facing a disaster without the plans and expertise in place to mitigate its impact. Oregon faces some of the most serious seismic risk in the world; far from being cut, DOGAMI should be funded to the fullest to help keep the citizens and the economy of the state safe in the face of inevitable future disasters."

DOGAMI has been able to help protect Oregonians because it is an unbiased, independent scientific agency. Exceptional, specialized scientists provide their expertise throughout the state and the influence of their work far exceeds the costs of the agency's nominal operating budget.

Respectfully,  
Yumei Wang, PE