

January 30, 2021

Dear Co Chairs and Committee Members;

I am writing in support of the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, and in opposition to the budget cuts and disbanding of DOGAMI proposed in the Governors budget and HB 5010. The essential functions of DOGAMI are critical to public safety in a state prone to earthquakes, tsunamis, landslides, flooding, coastal and inland environmental issues and volcanic activity, and are not adequately covered by other State or Federal agencies. DOGAMI has done an outstanding job with limited resources. They formed a consortium to map much of the state with high resolution LIDAR data, relating to faulting, landslides, coastal erosion, and other hazards. They have mapped landslides statewide and provided an easily accessible tool for the public to work with these data. DOGAMI also runs the Oregon Beach and Shoreline Mapping and Analysis Program to document the spatial variability of coastal change throughout the state shorelines.

One of the most significant hazards facing Oregon is the Cascadia subduction zone and its M9 earthquakes and tsunamis. We face a 20 to 37 percent chance of this type of event occurring in the next 50 years. This is no longer theoretical, or far off in the distant future, it is in our near future. DOGAMI has been involved in developing the science and the mitigation efforts for decades. In 2008 a comprehensive effort to include all relevant new data was begun by DOGAMI and led to the publication in 2013 of new tsunami lines for Oregon. The resulting tsunami inundation maps have been in use for land use planning efforts in coastal municipalities and counties and are straightforward and easily available. These maps are far better than what is available in California or Washington, and are the envy of other tsunami prone countries, including Japan and Canada. DOGAMI has begun working on the next iteration of the inundation maps that will incorporate updated science and methods.

DOGAMI has done more with less than any Government entity I have ever observed. And like many messengers, they have been under direct and indirect political attack for decades. Shooting the messenger is a long political tradition when there is a perception that the message may lead to restrictions of some type. Development at the coast is really the issue at hand, not the claimed budget issues DOGAMI has had. Those have been the result of constant budget cutting from above. In the grand scheme of things, DOGAMI has done a superb job despite budget cuts and being forced to raise their own grant funds. Even in a severe budget environment, the \$3 million savings is exceptionally shortsighted. The crisis will pass, and those in office will be gone, but the essential services DOGAMI performs must remain, and will be permanently lost if the agency is dismantled. Just the opposite, we should be increasing their budget and giving them a more secure position to do what they do very, very well.

Respectfully,

Dr. Chris Goldfinger

Director, Active Tectonics and Seafloor Mapping Laboratory
NSF MARSSAM Coring Facility U.S. Geological Survey Detailee
College of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences
Oregon State University mail: Ocean Admin Bldg 104, Corvallis OR 97331, USA
1 541 737 2066 fax 1 541 737 2064 goldatcoas.oregonstate.edu
activetectonics.coas.oregonstate.edu Earthquake Blog: atquake.wordpress.co