

Testimony to the Oregon House of Representatives Regarding the Proposed Budget of Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI)

Provided by Dr. John H Dilles, Professor of Geology, Oregon State University, February 1, 2021

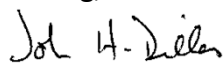
DOGAMI serves the people of Oregon by providing earth science data in geology and applied geology that are pertinent to Oregon's planning to mitigate natural hazards (tsunamis, coastal erosion, landslides, and earthquakes that may cause loss of property, and by providing data for environmentally sound management of earth resources such as minerals, energy resources, rock, sand and gravel, and groundwater.

The Governor's budget proposal (HB 5010) calls for elimination of DOGAMI as a state agency in a plan that transfers the 11 person Mineral Land Regulation & Reclamation Division to Oregon DEQ, and both downsizes the Geologic division from a staff of 28 to 7, and absorbs it into the Department of Land Conservation and Development. I oppose HB 5010.

DOGAMI provides essential earth science and applied earth science that is both important to Oregonians and cannot be provided by any other State agency or federal agency. As an expert on mineral resources, I believe DOGAMI has an essential role in doing geologic research and making geological maps of all of Oregon as well as providing applied research required to plan for earth resource use and environmental planning.

All 50 states in the USA have some sort of geological survey, and Oregonians will require DOGAMI to assess and plan for both earth hazard and resources. DOGAMI costs the taxpayers of Oregon little, and the maximum potential savings of the budget reduction is about \$3 million a year. In contrast, the potential damage from an offshore Oregon subduction zone earthquake and tsunami is likely to be billions of dollars, and resource and bedrock geology development such as wind and solar power plants, future geothermal energy plants, the proposed Grassy Mountain gold mine of eastern Oregon, and urban expansion each have potential impacts from \$100's of millions to more than a billion dollars. DOGAMI's MLRR has a \$2 million budget that is largely self-supporting, and DOGAMI's Geologic Division (\$7 million budget) is only 35% supported by the Oregon state general fund, with the balance coming from federal and state grants (National Earthquake Hazard Reduction, National Geological Mapping Act) and private contracts. The latter have paid for the Oregon Lidar Consortium, under which DOGAMI has directed acquisition of high quality <1 m spatial resolution digital airborne imagery and maps of more than one-third of Oregon, that is available to the public free.

In summary, DOGAMI provides useful earth science information to Oregonians, and its mission, funding, and management should be solidified so that Oregon is prepared for its future.



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About the author, John H Dilles.

JHD holds BS and MS degrees geology (1975, 1976) from Caltech, and a PhD (1984) degree from Stanford University. After three years work in the minerals exploration business (in Nevada, California, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana), he joined the faculty of geology at Oregon State University where he is a Professor in the College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences. He teaches courses in mineralogy, petrology, geochemistry, field geology, and geology of mineral deposits. He is a global leader in research on porphyry type deposits, which supply most of the world's mined copper and molybdenum, and does research the North and South American Cordillera. He has supervised to completion more than 30 MS and PhD students, and published more than 50 peer-reviewed papers, several field geology guidebooks, and several geologic maps. He is a member of the Mineralogical Society of America and the American Geophysical Union, and a Fellow of the Geological Society of America. He is a Fellow of the Society of Economic Geologists, and was awarded the SEG Silver Medal and Thayer Lindsley Lectureship. He is married to a geologist, and has three children, one of whom is a geologist who has worked in Oregon.

JHD served for 2 years on DOGAMI's "Geologic Mapping Advisory Committee," and has periodically provided comments to DOGAMI scientists on geology issues, but has never been involved in DOGAMI projects or received funding, grants, or contracts from DOGAMI.

The comments submitted are his alone, and do not represent the view of Oregon State University.