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Testimony in Support of DOGAMI and Opposed to the budget bill
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Governor Brown and Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources,

As a constituent of Crook County, I am writing to urge you to keep Oregon's Department of Geology and Mineral Industries whole. DOGAMI provides geologists and Oregonians with critical scientific information for our state.

Here in central Oregon, we have benefitted tremendously from the geologic mapping done by DOGAMI, specifically Jason McClaughry and Mark Ferns (retired). The geologic mapping project identified two calderas, helping to explain the reason for limited groundwater and the presence of minerals.

The geologic hazards that Oregon faces are virtually unparalleled in seriousness compared to the rest of the United States and we cannot afford to lose the modeling and planning that DOGAMI provides. Any legislative decision that jeopardizes their existence would put Oregonians at significant risk of personal and economic ruin.

In addition to the intuitive risks that earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanoes pose to Oregonians, DOGAMI has been a national leader in the development and implementation of technology to identify and protect us from landslide and flooding hazards. This information is essential to preserving the economy and people of Oregon.

The National Landslide Preparedness Act was passed in December 2020.

<https://www.energy.senate.gov/2020/12/national-landslide-preparedness-act-heads-to-president-s-desk>

<https://www.king5.com/article/tech/science/environment/trump-signs-federal-landslide-act-designed-with-input-from-wa-officials/281-7df18b75-1ce9-413d-9193-0189f78f7580>

It was in response to lives lost in the Oso (March 22, 2014) landslide and Oregon landslides like Dodson (1996 and 2021). Oregon has a landslide guide for our residents.

https://www.oregon.gov/lcd/Publications/Landslide_Guide_QuickReference_2019.pdf

Have you looked up your address on the Statewide Geohazard Viewer? I utilized this site to provide information into the Crook County Natural Hazard Mitigation plan (2018).

<https://www.oregongeology.org/hazvu/>

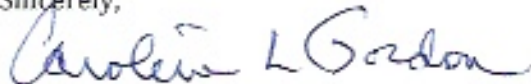
<https://www.coic.org/emergency-preparedness/natural-hazard-mitigation-plans/>

I'm writing as a private citizen and a retired U.S. Forest Service geologist. Federal agencies rely on the work accomplished by DOGAMI to address geologic concerns related to forestry, botany, soils and water, in addition to engineering. The LiDAR data alone has allowed for better analysis.

DOGAMI is a resource for farmers, ranchers, county commissioners, anyone drilling water wells, aggregate sources and questions about the ability of one lithology to grow trees better than another.

Please keep the department whole. DOGAMI plays a critical role for Oregon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Caroline L Gordon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Caroline L Gordon, PG 1445