

Catherine Thompson, MD

active member of SERV OR state and county emergency medical response team

February 1, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

I write as retired physician and active volunteer member of SERV OR, serving both the state and Multnomah County divisions. There is not a single person in our country or around the world who has not been impacted by the Covid 19 pandemic. The unnecessarily high number of deaths in our country is directly related to our lack of preparedness to manage and respond to a pandemic that had been predicted by scientists. In fact the division set up to respond in such an emergency was disbanded. Right now the lack of infrastructure, information and equitable structures for distribution of the vaccine likewise continue to hinder our response. I am doing my part in the vaccine administration effort, but we would have been so much more effective in preventing deaths and distributing vaccines if proper surveillance and emergency response structures had been funded and sustained.

In light of our current crisis, and as a volunteer member of the organization tasked with responding to future emergencies, our success depends on sustained professional scientific research that is essential to our preparation for a large subduction earthquake and its sequelae, which, like the pandemic is predicted by our earth scientists.

As with the pandemic, accurate basic scientific information and monitoring is the cornerstone of effective preparedness that can save lives and make the effectiveness of those tasked with responding much greater.

In our times DOGAMI is a singularly necessary and effective earthquake preparedness structure that is essential to the health and safety of all those who live in or visit Oregon.

Funding for DOGAMI must jump to the top of our list as an essential and equitable safety net for our future.

Sincerely,

Catherine Thompson, M.D.