



# UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

Department of Earth Sciences  
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31 January 2021

Governor Brown  
Attn: Citizens' Representative  
900 Court Street, Suite 254  
Salem, Oregon 97301-4047

Honorable Governor Brown:

Faculty and staff of the Department of Earth Sciences at the University of Oregon appreciate the budgetary challenges facing the state of Oregon as the Covid-19 pandemic wrecks havoc on so many well-laid plans. Although it is difficult for us to fathom the challenging decisions that you face in leading Oregonians forward, we request that you consider the value and importance of the services provided for all Oregonians by the Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI).

Oregon is a dynamic state, culturally and geologically. Our landscapes have been shaped by earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanoes, landslides, some of the world's biggest floods, and even wildfires. These forces will continue to impact Oregon and some of these processes are being exacerbated by climate change. DOGAMI provides critical services that are essential for Oregonians to continue thriving in this active setting. The expertise of DOGAMI helps our communities confront a multitude of hazards and their wildly popular Lidar mapping program that acquires and serves publicly available, high-resolution topographic data is a model to which other states aspire. Additionally, improving resiliency in Oregon and throughout the Pacific Northwest for the next Cascadia subduction zone earthquake and tsunami requires broad expertise and stakeholder engagement. The Oregon Hazards Lab at UO and DOGAMI have been stalwart supporters of your Resiliency 2025 agenda. These and other DOGAMI services are crucial for public safety, education, research, resource management, and more.

The scattering or dissolution of these services will compromise our ability to confront challenges that are part and parcel of living in our great state. We respectfully request that you prioritize maintaining DOGAMI as a stand-alone department.

Thank you for considering our request and for your support of DOGAMI's role in Oregon.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Joshua J. Roering in black ink.

Handwritten signature of Douglas R. Toomey in blue ink.

Joshua J. Roering, Professor & Department Head  
Douglas R. Toomey, Professor and Director, Oregon Hazards Lab (OHAZ)