

JEFF RUBIN  
Wilsonville, OR

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TO: Members, Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee On Natural Resources

For more than 25 years DOGAMI has led the way in generating and building awareness, helping us prepare for and protect ourselves against Cascadia and other seismic hazards. They've led not just in the scientific realm but in educating the public and informing the landmark legislative and ballot measures that we still lean on - but they're more than just earthquakes and tsunamis. They inform and help us address volcanic hazards, landslides, and floods, and help us respond to wildfires, but they're more than just hazards.

DOGAMI performs basic and applied research, giving us better maps and other information on what's at and below the surface, helping us build smarter and in better locations, develop more resilient infrastructure, protect and manage our natural resources, and adapt to changing conditions. No other Oregon agency has the professional ability or the mandate to do this research or to collect, create, and publish data, making it freely available for a range of users and applications. Local governments, private businesses, infrastructure owners and operators, individual residents, and numerous state agencies are among the customers and there's no replacement for that critical function.

A few days ago, termination of Oregon's LiDAR program was a live proposal, even though it couldn't have come at a worse time: as we work through the long wildfire recovery that lies ahead, our landscape has drastically changed and with it soil characteristics, slope stability and drainage patterns. The need for extensive residential replacement demands the best information we can provide on surface and subsurface conditions; the near-certain future fires demand the best information support for responding incident management teams and crews. We'll always need LiDAR and we'll always need DOGAMI's technical expertise to interpret it and make the information available to technical and non-technical users alike.

DOGAMI's work will only become more important as we see increasing effects of climate change across the state. As we expand our growth boundaries, we'll continue to need LiDAR, field work, and expert interpretation to build as wisely as possible and create economic and social vitality without putting people and infrastructure in harm's way.

Whether via a revised HB 5010 or another vehicle, we need to put our money where our mouth is: we recognize DOGAMI's services as essential, so we need to fund them.

Sincerely,



Jeff Rubin, PhD, CEM  
(Semi-)Retired Emergency Manager, Oregon local government (2001-2019)  
Vice Chair, Governor's Task Force on Resilience Plan Implementation (2014)