



Oregon

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Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 538 A

House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

Submitted by: Ruarri J. Day-Stirrat, Executive Director DOGAMI

April 13, 2023

Chair Grayber, Vice-Chair Lewis, Vice-Chair Tran, and Committee Members,

The Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) is in support of SB 538 A, a bill that would enable agencies that accept credit card payments to add the credit card convenience fee to the payment amount.

The Mineral Lands Regulation and Reclamation Program (MLRR) of DOGAMI currently collects permit fees primarily through paper checks. To improve customer service, increase efficiency, and modernize IT systems, DOGAMI is seeking to implement an electronic permitting system. However, for this system to be fully functional, it would include the option of credit card payments, and the agency would need to be able to pass the convenience fee on to the permit applicants should they choose this option. DOGAMI introduced SB 222, which would have provided DOGAMI with the same authority as introduced in SB 538 A for all agencies. Unfortunately, SB 222 failed a Senate floor vote last week as members recognized that SB 222 would have achieved the same outcome as SB 538 A, making SB 538 A an important component of DOGAMI's future electronic permitting system. The agency believes that the passage of SB 538 A will allow an efficient payment option in a modern electronic permitting system.

The Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) is in support of SB 538 A and would need the authority provided by SB 538 A to include credit card payments in an electronic permitting system.

Sincerely,

Ruarri J. Day-Stirrat
Executive Director/State Geologist