

Date: February 3, 2025

To: Co-chair Frederick
Co-Chair Levy
Members of the Natural Resources Sub-Committee of Ways & Means

Subject: Support for DOGAMI funding

I'm writing on behalf of Wilbur Land and Cattle in support of funding for the Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI).

With a little over one thousand rural acres, we're small landowners compared to large national and transnational companies that also rely on DOGAMI's services. When we started the permitting process for exploring our land, we worried we wouldn't have the financial resources to navigate it. We could afford the permit fees, but we had no geotechnical experts or attorneys on staff and didn't know what consulting costs to expect.

DOGAMI's staff proved invaluable. They answered our questions, gave practical advice, and steered us away from costly mistakes—probably saving us years of wasted effort. Exploring for valuable minerals takes experience and expertise. We had neither at the start, but DOGAMI has helped us learn more about our land and what might lie beneath it.

The future economy will depend on material science, and that starts with raw materials from the earth. Lighter, stronger, more conductive, more flexible, more rigid—advancing technology requires advancing materials. On-shoring mineral production means reducing reliance on countries with poor labor standards and increasing our ability to develop new energy sources and carbon sequestration technologies here at home.

The work DOGAMI does is critical—not just for those of us looking beneath the surface today but for the innovations of tomorrow. They are experts who want to see this work move forward responsibly, and we wholeheartedly support funding for the agency.

Sincerely,



Dave Fairbairn

Wilbur Land and Cattle