



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF OREGON**

February 10, 2015

Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources

Sen. Richard Devlin, Co-Chair

Rep. Dan Rayfield, Co-Chair

Members of the Committee

(WaysandMeans.NaturalResourcesSub@state.or.us)

Re: SB 5512, Dept. of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) – Comments

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, grassroots political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. The League has a comprehensive position adopted in 1995 on Hazards, a part of which is:

The League of Women Voters of Oregon believes that all levels of government share the responsibility of coordinating, implementing and funding an effective program to mitigate Oregon's earthquake and tsunami hazards. Priority must be given to mitigation that protects human life and safeguards critical life support systems.

When siting critical facilities, tsunami run up and inundation as well as seismic factors such as severe ground shaking, liquefaction, massive landslide potential, and subsidence should be considered.

Geological reports identifying property at risk should be on file and accessible to the public. Property that poses extreme hazards should be designated as unbuildable.

We also have strong positions in support of our land use planning program of which Goal 7, Natural Hazards, is an important element.

The League believes DOGAMI's scientific information, particularly with the LIDAR program, is critical to good decision making in a variety of areas both at the state and local level. Earthquake, Landslide and Coastal Erosion information are especially important for both public infrastructure siting and private investments. The use of DOGAMI's multiple data collection tools help make Oregonians safer.

The League continues to support funding for data collection in all natural resource agencies because good accurate scientific data saves public monies and provides for good public and private planning and investments. During the Integrated Water Resources Strategy, for instance, data from DOGAMI informed that work.

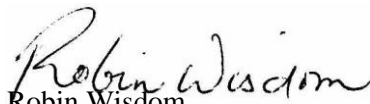
Yesterday's presentation noted that the programs of DOGAMI are in both the Healthy Environment and Jobs and Economy parts of the Governor's 10-year plan. But we would

argue that, even though this is a small agency, they play a significant role in Public Safety. It is for this reason that an increase in General Funding is appropriate.

The League also supports efficiencies and streamlining of permitting processes so long as environmental protections are factored into final decisions. We believe that public policymakers (yourselves) provide guidance to the agency to both provide industry development opportunities and protections for Oregon's environment.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,


Robin Wisdom
President


Peggy Lynch
Natural Resources Coordinator

cc: Vicki McConnell, PhD, RG: Oregon State Geologist and Director, DOGAMI
Richard M. Whitman, Governor's Natural Resources Policy Advisor