

February 1, 2021

RE: Oregon Legislature, Comments on HB 5010

My name is Claudio Berti, and I am the Idaho State Geologist and Director of the Idaho Geological Survey (IGS). I am writing to respectfully submit strong opposition to the passage of Oregon HB 5010.

As the director of a neighboring state geological survey, I would like to bring to your attention the collaborative nature of geologic research which cannot be successfully and effectively completed without a regional perspective.

Below are a few examples of the many fields where DOGAMI is providing leading scientific and technical contributions that benefit the citizens and stakeholders of Oregon and have a profound influence on the entire geologic community of the northwest region.

- DOGAMI is an independent source of objective science, and its products provide the tools for mitigation of geologic hazards, responsible stewardship of natural resources, development of statewide infrastructure, among others, and in doing so DOGAMI saves lives.
- DOGAMI is a leading agency in geologic hazards including earthquakes, tsunamis, landslides, and debris flow. IGS is currently following DOGAMI's methods and workflows in developing its own landslide inventory.
- IGS is currently focusing part of its mapping effort in southwest Idaho along the Idaho-Oregon border. This is a high population density area, and IGS staff relies heavily on first class geologic maps edited by DOGAMI to gain an integrated understanding of the complex geology of the region. As the geology extends across political boundaries, so does our joint scientific effort.
- Geothermal resources are abundant in parts of Oregon and have the potential to provide clean, renewable energy. DOGAMI's research has been instrumental in evaluating geothermal potential for the state, and currently a large new project is underway to apply novel scientific approaches in geothermal exploration to the Great Basin region of Oregon, Idaho, Utah, Nevada, and California.
- DOGAMI's research in volcanic hazards is lifesaving for the citizens of Oregon and serves the entire Pacific Northwest. Idaho and several northwest states rely heavily on DOGAMI for volcanic hazard assessments and early warnings as a Cascadia eruption will have direct impacts at a regional scale.
- Oregon has a complex and varied geology. The regional and local geologic expertise resides with the staff of a state geological survey and with the institutional knowledge of the Survey itself. It cannot be replaced or delegated to other institutions or agencies, either at the state or federal level. Dismantling DOGAMI would be shortsighted and unfortunate and will likely result in an unrecoverable loss.

Please feel free to contact me for any clarification or additional comments in support of the DOGAMI mission.

Respectfully submitted,



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