

Feb 2, 2021

Dear Co-Chairs and Committee Members;

I would like congratulate the Committee for their work and recognition of the essential work of DOGAMI is critical to all in the state. Looking forward, there remains much to be done, and the work that DOGAMI does is unlikely to end anytime soon, if ever.

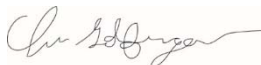
It is well-recognized across the state that the essential functions of DOGAMI are critical to public safety in a state prone to earthquakes, tsunamis, fires, landslides, flooding (coastal and inland) environmental issues and volcanic activity, and are not adequately covered by other State or Federal agencies. DOGAMI has done an outstanding job with limited resources. They formed a consortium to map much of the state with high-resolution LIDAR data, relating to faulting, landslides, coastal erosion, and other hazards. They have mapped landslides statewide and provided an easily accessible tool for the public to work with these data. DOGAMI also runs the Oregon Beach and Shoreline Mapping and Analysis Program (OBSMAP) to document the spatial variability of shoreline erosion throughout the.

One of the most significant hazards facing Oregon is the Cascadia subduction zone and its M9 earthquakes and tsunamis. We face a ~ 20-37% chance of this type of event occurring in the next 50 years. This is no longer theoretical, or far off in the distant future, it's in our *near* future. DOGAMI has been involved in developing the science and the mitigation efforts for decades. In 2008 a comprehensive effort to include all relevant new data was begun by DOGAMI and led to the publication in 2013 of new tsunami lines for Oregon. The resulting tsunami inundation maps have been in use for land use planning efforts in coastal municipalities and counties and are straightforward and easily available. These inundation maps are the envy of our neighbors in California, Washington and Canada. The next generation of tsunami inundation modeling is in the planning stages now, in 2021.

DOGAMI has done more with less than any Government entity I've ever observed. And like many messengers, they have been under direct and indirect political attack for decades. It's the fiscal equivalent of the old joke, "the floggings will continue until morale improves". Some of the issues are about their budget shortfall, leaving the impression that they have mismanaged the budget. DOGAMI has been required to raise much of their budget from external grants for years. This source of funding has never been stable, and many Federal agencies (National Science Foundation for one) simply will not support the salaries of State employees, a view that is becoming more common. Even when they will, funding rates are ~ 8-30%, a very competitive environment. There is just no way to have a stable budget for an entire agency derived in this way, it's not predictable or sustainable. This reality, not mismanagement, is the source of the DOGAMI budget issues, and of course the Committee members are aware of this. The solution is likely to put DOGAMI on a stable track by restoring general fund support for these important core functions for Oregon. Other support can and should be sought, but not as the primary vehicle in my opinion.

I hope we can move toward giving DOGAMI a more secure position to do what they do very, very well.

Respectfully,



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