

February 2, 2021

Dear Natural Resources Subcommittee Co-chairs and Members,

We, faculty members of the College of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences, Oregon State University, write to express concern about the proposed dissolution of the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI). We are pleased to hear that this will likely not come to pass, and that DOGAMI budget stabilization is what will be addressed. DOGAMI has a long (84 years!) history of excellence that has directly benefited the State of Oregon and its citizens. Events like the deadly Oso landslide in the State of Washington demonstrate the need for dedicated and ongoing state-led efforts to identify and mitigate natural hazards.

The essential functions of DOGAMI are critical to public safety in a state prone to earthquakes, tsunamis, landslides, flooding (coastal and inland) environmental issues and volcanic activity. Investigating, documenting, and modeling these hazards are an essential public safety matters that are not handled adequately by other State or Federal agencies. DOGAMI plays an essential role in providing Oregonians earth science and applied science expertise. All other states have similar Agencies, and Oregonians would be at added risk without DOGAMI. Among the many functions that directly impact the health and safety of Oregonians, DOGAMI:

- Formed a consortium to map much of the state with high-resolution LIDAR data that have been key to identifying faults, landslides, coastal erosion, and other hazards.
- Runs the Oregon Beach and Shoreline Mapping and Analysis Program (OBSMAP) to document the spatial variability of coastal change throughout the state's shorelines.
- Provides essential geologic data for land use planning and regulations, mineral materials and energy resources, bedrock geology throughout the state, and groundwater resources.
- Plays a central role in characterizing and communicating earthquake and tsunami hazard posed by the Cascadia subduction zone, and conducts high-level tsunami inundation modeling.
- Publishes tsunami inundation, landslide and other hazard maps for land use planning efforts, engineering, and hazard mitigation by cities, counties, state agencies, and other users.

DOGAMI provides benefit to Oregonians at little cost to the taxpayers because both their Division of Mineral Land Regulation & Reclamation and the Oregon Lidar Consortium are entirely self-supported at no cost to the State, and less than half the cost of the Geologic Division is paid by the State.

We fully support DOGAMI and their work, and look forward to continuing fruitful scientific collaborations DOGAMI staff to the benefit all Oregonians.

Best Regards,

Chris Goldfinger, Christo Buizert, Jessica Crevelling, Maureen Davies, John Dilles, Robert Harris, Adam Kent, Randall Keller, Anthony Koppers, Mitch Lyle, Stephen Lancaster, Andrew Meigs, Alan Mix, John Nabelek, Alan Niem (Emeritus), Wendy Niem (Emeritus), Peter Ruggiero, Adam Schultz, Pieter-Ewald Share, Alyssa Shiel, Joseph Stoner, Frank Tepley, Anne Trehu, Gregory Wilson, Robert Wheatcroft, and Kaplan Yalcin.