

February 3, 2021
Joint Subcommittee on Natural Resources
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: HB 5010 – Support for DOGAMI Funding

Dear Co-Chair Taylor, Co-Chair Reardon, and Members of the Subcommittee:

As local government partners, we write to urge your support for continued investments in the core functions of the Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI).

The current pandemic has provided our nation with a painful lesson on the consequences of cutting funding to the government agencies that prepare us for future disasters. Federal, state, and local government rely on DOGAMI for critical information on geologic hazards and natural resources essential for the safety of Oregonians and to inform environmentally sound development of infrastructure across the state.

The maps, reports, and data DOGAMI currently develops help Oregon manage natural resources and reduce community vulnerability to natural hazards (earthquakes, tsunamis, landslides, floods and coastal erosion). Geologic mapping supports healthy ecosystems and guides rural and urban development. DOGAMI also facilitates the Oregon LiDAR Consortium, which collects LiDAR data to produce accurate high-resolution images of the earth's surface, for use in new-generation mapping, natural resource management, planning, and many other applications. Finally, DOGAMI oversees the state's mineral production and works to minimize the impacts of natural resource extraction and to maximize the opportunities for land reclamation. The fee-based, statewide program regulates all upland and underground mining on lands within the State, and works collaboratively with other state agencies, local governments, Oregon's federally recognized Indian tribes, industry and the public.

Local governments understand the difficult budget realities facing our state and support efforts to explore efficiencies across state agencies and processes – so long as DOGAMI's core functions continue to be performed. These services provide an essential foundation for Oregon's coordination and implementation to mitigate future earthquake and tsunami hazards. We cannot afford to gain short-term budget savings at the expense of Oregon's future preparedness.

As key partners who support DOGAMI's mission, we would welcome the opportunity to further explore long-term solutions that ensure sustainably funded and highly capable programs.

Thank you for your consideration,

