

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

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We the faculty of the Department of Geology at Portland State University are writing to applaud the Joint Committee on Ways and Means natural resources subcommittee for recognizing and preserving the important role of the State Geological Survey, the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI), and to advocate a budget adequate to support the continuation this outstanding work. DOGAMI serves Oregon by providing reliable scientific data to stake-holders, geoscientists, and others for education, hazard response, natural resource extraction, and planning. Historically, DOGAMI has produced scientific resources that are useful to diverse communities for reducing risk to geologic hazards (e.g. landslides, tsunami, volcanic hazards, radon, etc.) and supporting growth of a resilient community. We need a State Geological Survey to prioritize geologic hazards and resources in Oregon. The impacts of climate change are increasingly apparent in Oregon, as evidenced by increased flooding, wildfires, and post-burn landslides. As our population grows so do our demands on natural resources like clean water and mineral resources. As we expand our footprint in the landscape, we face increasing risks to landslide, earthquake and tsunami hazards. In the face of climate change and population growth adequate funding to DOGAMI is critical to our resiliency and our success.

DOGAMI has put Oregon at the forefront in the Nation by creating and making cutting-edge, real-time geologic hazard and resource information available online to the public (<https://www.oregongeology.org/gis/>). The critical data they provide include an interactive hazards map (HazVu) of cancer causing radon hazard, current landslides, flooding, earthquake shaking and liquefaction, coastal erosion, along with a unique, cutting-edge lidar based landslide database for the entire state (SLIDO). To develop that database, DOGAMI scientists have developed protocols for landslide mapping, hazard, and risk analysis that set the standard for other states and have been adapted and implemented internationally. In addition, DOGAMI continues to generate new, state-of-the-art geological maps that provide critical base data for a range of topics, such as water resource evaluations. We ask that Legislators reviewing this agency become familiar with these products by visiting DOGAMI's website (<https://www.oregongeology.org/gis/>), and looking up hazards mapped near their home, work, or their child or grandchild's school. Click on the Interactive Hazards Map, click the map to load HazVu, and once the map is open type in your address. Click on Radon hazard, then earthquake, landslide, etc. This hazard viewer is a wonderful educational resource for non-geoscientists. DOGAMI is also involved in collaborative research with PSU, OSU and UO, and collaborates with other state and federal agencies like ODOT, the USGS, and USACOE. DOGAMI recently provided updates to the USGS for ongoing revisions to the National Seismic Hazard Maps, ensuring that new research in Oregon was incorporated.

We have written this letter to our elected leaders to help you become more informed on how DOGAMI serves our community. We cannot stress enough the importance of adequate funding to maintain an independent scientific state agency dedicated to this important work.

Sincerely,

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