

Statement in Opposition to HB 5010, Public Testimony February 3, 2021

Chair and Members of the committee, my name is Paul Edison-Lahm representing the Portland NAACP Environmental Justice committee.

I'm also the Public Member of the Oregon State Board of Geologist Examiners, and Communications Director and Past President of the Geological Society of the Oregon Country (GSOC). GSOC — the oldest collaboration of amateurs and professional geologists in the Pacific Northwest — recently worked with our member retired DOGAMI engineer Yumei Wang in distributing a petition for DOGAMI that received over 1800 signatures — and are grateful to this committee and its work with Ms. Streeter in the Governor's office to keep DOGAMI under one roof.

Speaking today on behalf of Portland NAACP, we ask that a future financially stabilized DOGAMI include a larger role for Black, brown, indigenous and Asian geoscientists and engineers in protecting those very communities from geohazards, such as catastrophic earthquakes and landslides.

As many of you know, DOGAMI played a pivotal role in identifying Portland's Critical energy infrastructure (CEI) hub as one of the greatest seismic threats in the State — second only to the tsunami risk. Failure of the CEI in a Cascadia quake would be catastrophic to North and Eastside Portland neighborhoods, including devastating many historically Black neighborhoods, churches, and businesses through overwhelming release of toxic pollutants and poisonous gases.

We ask that you consider Governor Brown's recent recommendation in her January 26, 2021 email to state employees that state agencies develop equity focused positions and are optimistic that this will lead to a DOGAMI that better serves all Oregon communities.

Thank you.

Paul Edison-Lahm
Portland NAACP, Branch #1120
Environmental Justice Secretary

Communication Director, Past-President and Fellow
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