



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES OF OREGON

"The Engineers"

Since 1956

Testimony to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means - Subcommittee on Natural Resources
Supporting a Strong and Viable Department of Geology and Mineral Industries
HB 5010, DOGAMI Budget Bill

February 3, 2021

Good morning co-chair Taylor and Reardon and members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources. I am Marshall Coba representing the American Council of Engineering Companies of Oregon. ACEC Oregon is in strong support of a well-funded and viable Department of Geology and Mineral Industries to ensure the agency can carry out their important mission. We were pleased to hear this commitment at the beginning of the February 1 committee meeting, and we offer our assistance to help the committee and staff develop a strong budget and plan for DOGAMI.

Our initial testimony drafted prior to the February 1 committee meeting was focused on keeping DOGAMI whole and to properly fund the agency. Because that commitment has been made by legislative leadership, the Governor, and this committee, we offer our expertise to support this goal. Please call upon us to assist.

ACEC Oregon is a professional organization comprised of more than 115 engineering firms, employing approximately 4,000 employees in Oregon and southwest Washington. Our members work daily with and rely upon key information provided by DOGAMI.

DOGAMI staff are recognized by the engineering profession for their expertise in a broad range of natural hazards research and evaluation including landslides, earthquakes, tsunamis, flooding, and seismic resilience (a major point of intersection for ACEC Oregon members and DOGAMI staff). DOGAMI also maintains safeguards for the state's geologic natural resources through the regulation of extractive mining operations, geothermal development, and oil and gas activities.

In this time of rapid climate change and increasing reliance on all of Oregon's natural resources, ACEC Oregon supports the continuation of DOGAMI. This would maintain the state's preeminent one-stop source of reliable natural hazards and mineral extraction information and protect public safety.

We support a strong, viable and well-funded DOGAMI to ensure we are prepared for the expected destructive and costly natural disasters that science says could hit at any time. A strong DOGAMI will be a major asset for communities across Oregon to be prepared for destructive natural disasters, including a Cascadia earthquake and tsunami, winter storms, floods, and landslides.

We look forward to assisting the committee to prepare a budget that will allow DOGAMI to properly serve its core mission well.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service to Oregon during this trying time.

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