



February 3, 2021

Co-Chairs Taylor and Reardon
Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources

Dear Co-Chairs Taylor and Reardon and members of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources,

We were concerned when we heard that the Governor had proposed eliminating the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) in this year's budget. We support the Committee's decision to build a budget that keeps DOGAMI as an independent agency.

In Central Oregon, geothermal development review and permitting may be very important with possible projects on Newberry National Monument. DOGAMI's Mineral Land Regulation & Reclamation (MLRR) program will be a critical resource to continue permitting and regulation of exploratory drilling and production from geothermal wells. The agency will also help ensure minimal impact of natural resource extraction and maximize beneficial restoration of disturbed lands.

If the State is unable to continue to fund DOGAMI, the State Department of Energy might be another agency that could ensure continued support for geothermal development.

We encourage you to find a way to continue supporting these valuable programs.

Sincerely,

The Deschutes County Board of Commissioners

Anthony DeBone
Chair

Phil Chang
Vice Chair

Patti Adair
Commissioner

CC: Senators Lynn Findley, Tim Knopp, and Dennis Linthicum
Representatives Daniel Bonham, Vikki Breese Iverson, Jason Kropf and Jack Zika