

Oregon's Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) is a state treasure, a concentration of top scientists, who--among other things--help inform the rest of us about natural hazards.

As a member of one of Portland's Neighborhood Emergency Teams (NETs), I rely on DOGAMI's science to know the risks that I and other emergency response volunteers face when we respond to emergencies.

We all worry about the "Big One" subduction zone earthquake, and a tsunami that would devastate the city, and even moreso, the Oregon Coast. Smaller earthquakes could do considerable damage, too.

HB 5010 would reduce DOGAMI's budget by about 70% and cut the staff by about half, imposing a devastating loss to our ability to understand the natural world--and for those of us who are training to volunteer in an emergency, to fully understand the risks we face and to prepare accordingly.

Please do not cut or weaken DOGAMI.