

Dear chairmen and members of the Oregon Legislature Natural Resources Subcommittee:

I urge you to reject HB 5010.

As a research geophysicist, I have benefited greatly from collaborative research with geologists of the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI). I understand and appreciate the value that this organization brings to the citizens of Oregon.

You undoubtedly recognize the many geologic hazards facing the citizens of Oregon: great earthquakes on the Cascadia megathrust, tsunamis generated by those earthquakes, active faults beneath populated areas, and landslides in regions of moderate topography. These hazards profoundly threaten life, property, and community infrastructure. DOGAMI is tasked with understanding, predicting, and mitigating the effects of these geologic hazards and serving that information to emergency responders, city managers, and the public at large. DOGAMI also provides fact-based assessment of Oregon's natural resource potential, critical for land-use planning. HB 5051 threatens to throttle DOGAMI, reducing its budget by 70 percent and its staff by 50 percent. This proposal is short-sighted and ill-considered. It would cripple one of your premier state organizations, one that facilitates science-based decisions affecting the lives and well being of all Oregonians.

Please reject HB 5051. Please retain DOGAMI staff and operations at or above current levels, with funding adequate to continue its mission serving the citizens of Oregon.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard J. Blakely".

Richard J. Blakely
Research Geophysicist, Emeritus.