



January 29, 2021

Honorable Kate Brown, Governor of Oregon
160 State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Proposed DOGAMI Elimination

Governor Brown:

The Oregon Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE OR) has been advocating for Oregon's civil engineering community for over 100 years. The Oregon Section represents over 2000 engineering professionals in public and private practice throughout Oregon.

Engineers are trained to be problem solvers. As such, we seek out scientific information from multiple technical sources – including the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI), while completing our project studies and designs. The 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. 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.

As currently drafted, House Bill 5010 would lead to the sunseting of DOGAMI as an independent scientific agency and the laying off or transferring to other agencies its key core staff. In our view, passage of HB 5010 in its current form would have serious long-term negative consequences for all citizens of Oregon and would deprive the engineering community of an important source of reliable natural hazards information.

In this time of rapid climate change and increasing reliance on all of Oregon's natural resources, the ASCE Oregon Section considers elimination of DOGAMI a serious mistake. This would eliminate the state's preeminent source of reliable natural hazards and mineral extraction information and have a negative impact on public safety. We therefore strongly request that you recommend to the Oregon House of Representatives that HB 5010 be amended to fully fund DOGAMI and continue it as an independent science-based agency.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Josh Goodall". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a thin horizontal line.

Josh Goodall, P.E.
President, Oregon Section, ASCE

CC: Members of Oregon House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources