

January 31, 2021

Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee On Natural Resources  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: HB 5010

Dear Co-Chair Taylor, Co-Chair Reardon and Members of the Committee,

As a former City Councilor and Mayor of Cannon Beach and former Chair of the Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission, I oppose HB 5010 since it leads towards the elimination of the Department of Geology and Mineral Industries. The benefit this department has given the State is incalculable. Without the efforts of its unbiased scientists and support staff, the State would be woefully unprepared for a Cascadia earthquake/tsunami and other natural hazards. There would be no OSSPAC, no seismic rehabilitation grant program for our schools, no Oregon Resilience Plan, no State Resilience Officer, no tsunami inundation mapping to be used for evacuation and planning, no LIDAR mapping of the State, and the list goes on. The impact extends outside the State's borders, since its exemplary work was influential at the national and international levels as well.

A better solution the department's budgetary issues is to support it from the general fund rather than force it to rely on grant funding. This has a number of benefits. It would allow the department to focus on actual state needs rather than the grantor's interests. This, in turn, would reduce and streamline its administrative costs since grants are expensive to go after and to administer.

DOGAMI has been able to accomplish so much because it is a small, independent department, able to attract exceptional scientists and staff. Its ability to explain the implications of its research and to reach out to state agencies, local communities, the media and the general public created the trust needed for action. Of all the demands on the general fund, there are few with greater justification.

Sincerely,



Jay Raskin, FAIA