



Geological Society of the Oregon Country

PO Box 907, Portland, OR 97207

From: Kim Burroughs (they/them/theirs)

Member of Geological Society of the Oregon Country

Date: 1/27/2021

To: Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee On Natural Resources

Dear Committee,

As an active member of the largest and oldest Geological Society in Oregon, I am writing to urge that you recommend to the legislature to continue funding Oregon's Department of Geology and Mineral Industries. DOGAMI provides geologists and Oregonians with critical scientific information for our state.

The geologic hazards that Oregon faces are virtually unparalleled in seriousness compared to the rest of the United States and we cannot afford to lose the modeling and planning that DOGAMI provides. Any legislative decision that jeopardizes their existence would put Oregonians at significant risk of personal and economic ruin.

DOGAMI has been a national leader in the development and implementation of technology to identify and protect us from landslide and flooding hazards. This information is essential to preserving the economy and people of Oregon.

In addition, I believe that we need to pay close attention to our physical environment because when we experience geohazards, oppressed communities will be the ones experiencing the most harm. As we have seen during Covid-19, those with financial means and extensive privilege have more access to safety and well-being. If earthquakes and floods destroy our physical neighborhoods and communities, not everyone has the access to purchase their way into a new life.

By supporting geologists in Oregon and putting the funding behind their work, we are better able to give community members the scientific information needed to make informed decisions on where to live and how to care for themselves amid these impending geological hazards. Our

community needs the scientific data in order to plan for their lives, their families' wellbeing, and their communities at-large. When geohazards lead to community states of crisis, we need to have plans in place to support displaced Oregonians. If we know the risks, we can create a plan to care for each other in the aftermath of a geologic hazard.

Please take into consideration the critical role that DOGAMI plays in Oregon when the legislature meets in January 2021 and plans the future of this important agency. I urge you as a community member and student of social work to evaluate this funding change with a lens of community care.

With respect,

Kim Burroughs
Geological Society of the Oregon Country
www.gsoc.org