

**College of Liberal Arts and Sciences**

Department of Geology

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We the faculty of the Department of Geology at Portland State University are writing to express grave concern that the State Geological Survey, the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI), will be eliminated by proposed budget cuts under consideration by the Oregon Legislature. Our Department is charged with educating tomorrow's geoscientists who will face a myriad of challenges as professional engineering and environmental geologists, hydrogeologists, geologists in the hazards and energy sectors, teachers, and public servants. We need a State Geological Survey to prioritize geologic hazards and resources in Oregon, to continue to provide easy to access up-to-date geoscience information for both hazard response and planning purposes. The proposed budget would eliminate funding for DOGAMI in the second year of the budget, this is alarming to our Department and should be for all Oregonians. The impacts of climate change are increasingly apparent, as evidenced by increased flooding, wildfires, and post-burn landslides. As our population grows so do our demands on natural resources like clean water and mineral resources. As we expand our footprint in the landscape, we face increasing risks to landslide, earthquake and tsunami hazards. In the face of climate change and population growth retaining DOGAMI is critical to our resiliency and to our success responding to hazards to easily access critical up-to-date information.

DOGAMI has put Oregon at the forefront in the Nation by creating and making cutting-edge, real-time geologic hazard and resource information available online to the public (<https://www.oregongeology.org/gis/>). The critical data they provide include an interactive hazards map of current landslides, flooding, earthquake shaking and liquefaction, coastal erosion, along with a unique, cutting-edge lidar based landslide database for the entire state. DOGAMI is involved in collaborative research with PSU, OSU and UO, and conducts research with other state and federal agencies like ODOT, the USGS, and USACOE. DOGAMI is a critical point of contact for current hazard and resource research in the state. DOGAMI recently provided updates to the USGS for ongoing revisions to the National Seismic Hazard Maps, ensuring that new research in Oregon was incorporated.

We have written this letter to our elected leaders to help you become more informed on this important issue, in the hope that you can do what you can to maintain funding for important state agencies. We cannot stress enough the importance of maintaining an independent scientific state agency dedicated to this important work.

Sincerely,

Portland State University, Department of Geology Faculty and Staff:

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