



Association of American State Geologists

February 3, 2021: Oregon legislature, Comments on HB 5010

The Association of American State Geologists (AASG) represents the State geological surveys in the U.S., and the AASG is writing to respectfully submit our strong opposition to the passage of Oregon HB 5010. This HB will reduce or dismantle the operational functions, budgets, and staff of the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI), which serves as the geological survey for Oregon. Notably, nearly every state has a functioning geologic survey that focuses on assessing natural resources and geologic hazards (e.g. floods, landslides, sinkholes, earthquakes and tsunamis) within their respective state.

The Northwest (NW) U.S., Cascades, is geologically one of the most active areas of the country. Any reduction in the scientific research of DOGAMI would disrupt the ability to save lives and support the infrastructure of Oregon. This would also severely disrupt the continuum of critical technical data collection and map production, which is a scientific partnership with the geological surveys of California, Nevada, Idaho, and Washington. For example, the DOGAMI publications and research of the coastal subduction zones and associated active crustal faults have benefited Washington, Oregon, and California for years. These geological surveys have been working collaboratively for tens of years to support the safety, health, welfare, and preservation of the natural resources for all the stakeholders and public in the Northwest. DOGAMI and NW State surveys share their scientific successes through publications and programs with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and other State and international geological surveys at regional, national and international scientific forums. Oregon is a cornerstone for these scientific data collections.

DOGAMI, the adjoining states and the USGS are currently collaborating on obtaining quality scientific data and publications to save lives and maintain the stability of the infrastructure of the NW U.S. and this includes but is not limited to:

- The geohazards of earthquakes, tsunamis, active faults, volcanoes, landslides and wildfire erosion, all hazards that can impact the lives of anyone in many areas of pre and post impacts, many times using sophisticated LiDAR interpretations to support the research and data.
- Climate change and green energy development through the greater use of geothermal energy sources for carbon free energy.
- Identification and protection of the natural resources including the forestry industry for the benefit of current and future generations.

AASG asks the Oregon Legislature to look at the programs and projects of DOGAMI. Can the Oregon government and Oregon citizens continue to be safe from geohazards such as landslides, tsunamis, volcanoes, etc.? How will you continue to tell stakeholders and citizens where landslides will close roads and potentially take lives? When that earthquake occurs, where will a tsunami impact the shoreline residents? A fully functioning DOGAMI can answer all of these geological questions and continue to refine recommendations as they acquire additional data.

Continuing the full scientific roles of DOGAMI is needed for Oregon, the NW US region and to continuing of shared scientific programs with the USGS, other State surveys, and the international geological surveys. AASG, professional associations and others have submitted comments to oppose any reduction in DOGAMI capabilities for Oregon.

You may contact me for any clarification or additional comments to support DOGAMI scientific services.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John A. Yellich". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J".

John A. Yellich, CP

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