

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Department of Geology and Mineral Industries Earth Mapping Resources Initiative

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: Natural Resources Subcommittee
Carrier: Senator Dembrow

On February 28th, the Natural Resources Subcommittee recommended approval of the submission of a federal grant application from the Department of Geology and Mineral Industries to the U.S. Geological Survey in the amount of \$330,000 to collect data for the Earth Mapping Resources Initiative.

This federal program seeks to identify areas which may contain critical mineral resources, valuable energy resources, groundwater, and geologic hazards. The USGS proactively reached out to the Department and worked with them to develop the letter of solicitation and requirements, setting aside \$330,000 specifically for Oregon. This funding would cover a project for geologic mapping and evaluation of mineral resources, such as lithium, in the northern sector of the McDermitt caldera in Malheur County.

The Department appeared before the Subcommittee in advance of the application deadline of March 3, 2023. There is no state match requirement; however, the grant criteria encourages in-kind match. Therefore, the Department plans to contribute up to \$179,000 to the project in staff time and supplies in confirmation of their commitment. No additional funds or staff are needed.

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends approval.