



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF OREGON**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a 97-year-old grassroots nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We envision informed Oregonians participating in a fully accessible, responsive, and transparent government to achieve the common good. LWVOR Legislative Action is based on advocacy positions formed through studies and member consensus. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party.

March 5, 2017

To: Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources
Sen. Lew Frederick and Rep. Brad Witt, Co-Chairs
Members of the Committee

Email: jwmnr.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

Re: HB 5011, Dept. of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) – Comments

The League of Women Voters has a comprehensive position adopted in 1995 on Hazards, a part of which is:

The League of Women Voters of Oregon believes that all levels of government share the responsibility of coordinating, implementing and funding an effective program to mitigate Oregon's earthquake and tsunami hazards. Priority must be given to mitigation that protects human life and safeguards critical life support systems.

When siting critical facilities, tsunami run up and inundation as well as seismic factors such as severe ground shaking, liquefaction, massive landslide potential, and subsidence should be considered.

Geological reports identifying property at risk should be on file and accessible to the public. Property that poses extreme hazards should be designated as unbuildable.

We also have strong positions in support of our land use planning program of which Goal 7, Natural Hazards, is an important element. As mentioned in our Dept. of Land Use and Conservation budget testimony, there are important linkages among agencies' duties regarding Oregonian's public safety regarding this very important issue.

The League believes DOGAMI's scientific information, particularly with the LIDAR program, is critical to good decision making in a variety of areas, both at the state and local level. Earthquake, Landslide and Coastal Erosion information are especially important for both public infrastructure siting and private investments. The use of DOGAMI's multiple data collection tools help make Oregonians safer.

The League continues to support funding for data collection in all natural resource agencies because accurate scientific data saves public monies and provides for good public and private planning and investments. During the Integrated Water Resources Strategy, for instance, data from DOGAMI informed that work. There are requests for increased investment in groundwater studies in the Water Resources budget this biennium. Yet the Dept. of Environmental Quality budget has staffing reductions for their portion of such studies. **We have got to expand these budget discussions to link programs and get out of these agency silos.** We do understand there is discussion, even a bill (HB 2906), working to link the various data sources to provide the

best collaborative data to all. Of course, any such work will require technology investments to these agencies by the legislature. Without additional revenue, this is not likely to happen.

The League also supports efficiencies and streamlining of permitting processes so long as environmental protections are factored into final decisions. We are following the consolidated permitting process being used for the first time with the gold mine application of Calico Resources near Vale, OR. We will want to hear from both the agencies and the applicant at the end of this process to determine whether or not this was a positive process for both. For the League, it is important that the agencies' missions are being met while fairly adjudicating the outcome of the application. We believe that public policymakers (yourselves) should provide guidance to this agency to both provide industry development opportunities and protections for Oregon's environment.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.



Norman Turrill
LWVOR President



Peggy Lynch,
Natural Resources Coordinator

cc: Brad Avy: Oregon State Geologist and Director, DOGAMI (Brad.Avy@dogami.state.or.us)
Lauri Aunan, Governor's Natural Resources Policy Advisor (Lauri.Aunan@oregon.gov)