



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

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January 25, 2019

Office of the Governor
State of Oregon
900 Court Street NE, 254
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Governor Brown:

The Governing Board of the Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) takes very seriously its statutory and regulatory responsibility to help mitigate the impact of tsunamis that have, and will in the future, affect the life, safety, and property of Oregonians and visitors to our coastal communities.

It has been nearly twenty-five years since Oregon passed legislation that adopts an updated scientific understanding of the magnitude of the risk posed by tsunamis to the Pacific Northwest coast. Much has been learned since then and the Board believes a fresh look is needed to thoughtfully evaluate: 1) roles and responsibilities among state agencies; 2) recent national tsunami research and mitigation design developments; and 3) the impact of the regulatory framework on local communities. The Board wants to ensure the most effective framework is in place to help protect life and public safety. The Board also recognizes that the economic implications of planning and preparing for a potentially devastating future tsunami must be balanced with present-day community needs.

To this end, the Board adopted a motion to formally request the Governor's Office to convene and lead a multi-agency Tsunami Line Taskforce that will recommend updates to the statutory requirements found in ORS 455.446 (Construction of certain facilities and structures in tsunami inundation zone prohibited) and ORS 455.447 (Regulation of certain structures vulnerable to earthquakes and tsunamis). The Taskforce will also propose a legislative approach and timeline for any recommended statutory changes. The Taskforce is proposed to include the following agencies:

- Oregon Office of Emergency Management (OEM)
- Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD)
- Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD)
- Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT)
- Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission (OSSPAC)
- Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS)
- Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI)

Governor Brown
January 25, 2019
Page 2

In addition to taskforce members listed above, the Board strongly encourages the addition of up to two public members who reside on the coast.

If I can be of any assistance as you contemplate this request, please do not hesitate to contact me. The Board and I look forward to your response.

Respectfully Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura Maffei". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Laura Maffei
DOGAMI Board Chair

cc: Brad Avy, DOGAMI Executive Director/State Geologist