



Department of Geosciences

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December 14, 2006

The Honorable Theodore R. Kulongoski
Governor of Oregon
160 State Capitol
900 Court Street
Salem, Oregon 97301-4047

Dear Governor Kulongoski,

It was a great pleasure and thrill to have the opportunity to speak with you face-to-face about the Oregon territorial seafloor mapping issue. Thank you for your interest and attentiveness to this important region that is indeed "owned" by the State Land Board. I wanted to say again that I understand your frustration over how best to address important issues concerning our coast and ocean, and to assure you that scientists at OSU, as well as the other signatories of the Scientific Consensus Statement for Mapping the Oregon Territorial Seafloor (http://dusk.geo.orst.edu/3mile/consensus_statement.pdf) stand ready to assist you in any way possible. It may be helpful to consider us for membership on the future science panel that you mentioned, as you and Governors Schwarzenegger and Gregoire continue to move forward on the Tri-state Agreement on Ocean Health.

I'd like to reiterate that our group of scientists comes not only from OSU, but from DOGAMI, ODFW, and NOAA, including:

Vicki McConnell, State Geologist and Director of DOGAMI

David Fox, Arlene Merems, and Hal Weeks, Marine Resources Program, ODFW

Bob Dziak, NOAA Pacific Marine Environmental Lab, Newport

Our OSU group of scientists includes myself and:

Chris Goldfinger and Chris Romsos, OSU College of Oceanic & Atmospheric Sciences

Jane Lubchenco, Mark Hixon, and Bruce Menge, OSU Zoology

Scott Heppell and Selina Heppell, OSU Fisheries & Wildlife

Dan Cox, Harry Yeh, and Solomon Yim, OSU Coastal and Ocean Engineering, Hinsdale Wave Research Lab

Bob Yeats, OSU Geosciences

Sherm Bloomer, Dean of the OSU College of Science

Mark Abbott, Dean of the OSU College of Oceanic & Atmospheric Sciences

I wanted to mention again that we are indeed moving forward on finding whatever funding we can for this effort (chipping away at that \$6 million), but would appreciate your advocacy as we continue to seek this funding from federal or foundation sources. Advocacy comes most readily in the form of letters of support to accompany our proposals. We have indeed received some seed funding from the USGS (U.S. Geological Survey). To add a little more to what I mentioned on Tuesday, the Western Coastal and Marine Geology branch of the USGS, based in

Santa Cruz, CA, will provide this funding, and we have a tentative plan for a two-week cruise on their new small survey boat to at least start our mapping effort. If the boat is delivered on time, and if their budget works out as expected, this initial mapping may take place in the summer of 2007, otherwise it will be in 2008. So, this essentially represents a collaboration with California, and there are other connections that hold great possibilities as well. Expediency is key given the importance of this project.

You mentioned on Tuesday the reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, which does include funding for tsunami warning and education (Title VIII). It is our understanding that NOAA would receive the bulk of that money for its tsunami warning systems and warning centers. A small portion of it might go to the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program, which might be considered as a funding source for the kind of shallow-water mapping that we propose.

An important wrinkle is the National Tsunami Plan that I mentioned. This plan has now been devised, but NOAA has not yet decided what to do with the money. Advocacy from your office or the State Land Board would be helpful here. One of the three highest priorities within the National Tsunami Plan is shallow-water mapping. More information about this plan is available from Dr. Chris Goldfinger at OSU (gold@coas.oregonstate.edu), who attended the workshop at which it was formulated. *It would also help us tremendously if you could include a request for federal funding of shallow water mapping in the priority list that you provide to Oregon's congressional delegation for the next federal fiscal year.*

With regard to any state-level funding, we very much appreciate what you are up against with your budgets but thank you for the possibility of some funds being diverted to our colleagues in DOGAMI. Please know that our group of scientists stands ready to work with Louise and her staff on action plans that she would like to include us in.

Again, thanks again for interacting with me on Tuesday, and thank you for your great service to our state. May I say also that I think Hershey is a great "first dog." My dog, Lydia (a Rhodesian ridgeback/collie mix), is the official departmental dog of OSU Geosciences (she wears an OSU jacket to work and has her own web site at <http://dusk.geo.orst.edu/lydia>).

Sincerely,



Dawn J. Wright, Ph.D., GISP
Professor, Geography and Oceanography

cc: Louise Solliday, Director of State Lands
Mike Carrier, Natural Resource Policy Director
Jessica Hamilton, Natural Resource Policy Advisor
Enclosures: Scientific Consensus Statement, Action Plan for Mapping