

Honorable Senators of Oregon / Members of the Ways & Means Committee,

You have the grave responsibility of appropriating funds paid by state residents to continue a program begun decades ago, the OR Native Plant Conservation Program to protect some of Oregon's most rare and endangered native plants. The Dept. of Agriculture must not let the vital work of a very small group of dedicated botanists fall from the State Budget for the next Biennial period of funding. One full time position means driving from one corner of this big state to the other to monitor, collect seed, propagate and record the 17 names Projects of record. More funding will allocate another full or half time staff member to the Dept. of Agriculture . There are many more plants waiting to be monitored due to the risk of encroaching development and urbanization of pristine areas that support unique plant species like the stunning Gentner's Fritillary Lily in Jacksonville.

Please don't let them be lost forever and continue funding with a Yes vote for SB 5502 !
Willow Elliott, President of Portland Chapter of Native Plant Society of OR