



Willamette Valley Chapter
Native Plant Society of Oregon

Co-Chairs Dembrow and Pham, Members of the Subcommittee on Natural Resources,

I am John Savage. I am the President of the Willamette Valley (Salem) Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Oregon. The Willamette Valley Chapter is one of 13 chapters of the Oregon Native Plant Society. Our mission is to promote the conservation, study, and enjoyment of Oregon's native plants and habitats.

The Willamette Valley Chapter urges your support for full funding of the Oregon Department of Agriculture's Native Plant Conservation Program. Until this biennium, the program had been underfunded and understaffed, causing critical work on the monitoring, protection, and listing of Oregon's threatened and endangered native plant species to lag.

Native plants have played a critical – if unheralded – role in our economy, environment, and history. They are the source of countless foods, medicines, and materials we use daily (for example, a rare species of meadowfoam was used to develop a valued oil seed). They are the foundation of healthy ecosystems in the state. And, they are an important part of Oregon's history and the cultural heritage of local indigenous peoples. Full funding of the Native Plant Conservation Program will yield benefits now and in the future to Oregonians.

Thank for your consideration of this testimony and thank you for your service to Oregonians.