

Submitter: Jennifer Lipert  
On Behalf Of: Emerald Chapter Native Plant Society  
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural  
Resources, and Water  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3173

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To: Members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources  
and Water

Regarding: Support for HB 3173

Dear Representatives,

I would like to thank you for taking up this important Bill to fund the OregonFlora program.

Members of the Emerald Chapter of the Native Plant Society were some of the first volunteers to help with OregonFLora starting in the early 2000s. Twenty years later, the program has produced 2 volumes of the Flora of Oregon and an unparalleled website that is used daily by professional and amateur botanists, gardeners, invasive plant managers, foresters and ecologists throughout the state.

As a botanist for the Forest Service, OregonFlora was critical to my work. I used it to help identify plants when I surveyed timber sales and other ground-disturbing projects, to keep abreast of new taxonomic changes so that my reports would be accurate, to check what the ranges were for plants within the state to determine rarity and distribution, to determine whether a plant was native or exotic- to name a few. My staff at the Willamette National Forest and botanical/ecological colleagues also used this application frequently. Using OregonFlora saved my staff countless hours of keying out plants and consulting numerous floras to determine species ranges and distributions.

In retirement, I use OregonFlora for many purposes. We use the website and it's OregonWildflowers app to identify plants on our Native Plant Society field trips. At our booth, we refer members of the public to the native plant gardening module in OregonFLora. We also display copies of the 2 Floras created to date as reference material. I use the plant identification and mapping tools to identify plants in

iNaturalist, a world-wide species distribution database that we use to track plants collected for Wildflower Shows and other data collection projects.

As a Master Gardener trainee, I use OregonFlora and OregonWildflowers for plant identification. I can see that the OregonFLora module that discusses gardening with native plants will be a useful reference when I volunteer at the phone-in plant clinic for OSU Extension.

I urge you to support HB3173 and provide OregonFLora with a funding base that will allow it to maintain its excellent and useful content for many of our Oregon citizens. The content helps many Oregonians complete their jobs more efficiently and effectively and is useful for a wide variety of applications from forestry to native plant nurseries to plant enthusiasts and gardeners.

Sincerely yours,

Jennifer Lippert  
President, Emerald Chapter Native Plant Society  
Master Gardener trainee  
Retired Forest Botanist, Willamette National Forest, US Forest Service