

Submitter: Mary Hayden

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3173

The growing threats of wildfire, drought, excessive heat, and extreme weather events are affecting our lives and lands NOW. The OregonFlora database lists all of the over 4700 native species of plants in Oregon. It also lists close to 1.5 million Oregon plant occurrence records accessible to all. This data is essential to understanding which plant communities are vulnerable to climate change, and more importantly, it provides vital information for accurately restoring and protecting damaged and degraded landscapes.

As a member of the Native Plant Society of Oregon, iNaturalist, and OSU Master Gardeners, I rely on the useful and accessible information in OregonFlora to enhance my knowledge of the natural world and share it with others. My contribution of plant photos has helped build this priceless public resource. The scholarly curation of the information in OregonFlora makes it accurate and invaluable to both professional and casual users. OregonFlora's standard taxonomy assures that my work can be accurately used by others, avoiding duplication or confusion.

Native plant nurseries supply a huge market for home gardeners, landscapers, and restoration projects. OregonFlora's information assures marketers are accurately promoting their native species. The public's strong interest in native plants drives an economic premium for this horticultural sector. OregonFlora provides the public and marketers with accurate scientific information on suitability and sustainability in home and commercial plantings.

This VITAL professional resource can no longer sustain itself on donations. Its inestimable benefit across many Oregon agencies and institutions must have long term sustainable funding as proposed in HB 3173. Please pass this bill.