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On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3173

OregonFlora is an invaluable resource for environmental conservation and restoration. The organization has provided the comprehensive key for the majority of plant species in Oregon and is the most complete and detailed resource for identifying and documenting floral diversity within a location. Other publications either do not cover the entirety of Oregon or do not include all the species in Oregon. I wouldn't be able to do the work I've done in creating restoration plans and documenting species without these books. They also provide great resources for the community with the purpose of making sustainable gardening accessible to all. During my time as a student at Oregon State University, I found that their presence made for a much more conscious and environmentally focused campus.

Their tireless work creating a foundation for conservation and restoration research through their publications and website has been observably limited by their budget. The small staff has already accomplished a great deal with what grants they were able to receive, but the work they are able to pursue seems mainly defined by the grants they are given. I believe that a consistent budget would give their team the security they need to focus on their goals of education and research without the looming threat of losing funding. The value they are adding to the work of many governmental agencies, organizations, academic institutions, non-profits, and private businesses is deserving of the recognition and consistent support that this bill would provide.