

Submitter: Annalise Michaelson

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3173

I'm a horticulturist in the private sector, and the success and efficiency of my work relies on Oregon Flora. I regularly reference the site for designing habitat restoration plantings that are climate adapted and locally native. The photographic resources are invaluable and show the relevant characteristics to make a positive ID, and this is even more precious as the gallery is updated with early stage germinants including intact cotyledons (first leaves) that often look quite different from the rest of the plant. This is a resource not available anywhere else, and the success of many seeding and propagation projects I've conducted has rested on the fact that Oregon Flora was available and functional.

Without continued and reliable funding, I am worried that restoration professionals, native plant gardeners, and the general public will lose a vital tool. We need Oregon Flora not only to inform projects that increase the health and sustainability of our landscapes but as an educational asset accessible to a wide audience; in my consulting work and educational volunteering, I always point clients and community members to Oregon Flora as a plant identification tool, resource for plant selection, and engaging and simple-to-use way to learn the flora of our beautiful state. This is money well spent. Please keep Oregon Flora funded!!