

WATER LEAGUE

*Water League engages the public
in water stewardship.*

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January 31, 2025

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

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In Memoriam
John L. Gardiner

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Representative Mark Owens, Co-Chair
Representative Sarah Finger McDonald, Vice-Chair
Representatives Court Boice, Annessa Hartman, Bobby Levy, Pam Marsh,
Susan McLain, Anna Scharf

RE: Water League supports HB 3173, which establishes the OregonFlora Program at Oregon State University.

Dear Co-Chairs Helm and Owens, Vice-Chair Finger McDonald, and committee members,

Water League engages the public in water stewardship because the waters of Oregon belong to all citizens, and they wish to hold water in trust. We recognize that land and water are one system that flora, fauna, and humans depend on.

Water League enthusiastically supports HB 3173 to establish and fund OregonFlora in statute.

[OregonFlora](#) is a wonderful service developed by Oregon State University starting in 1994. Some of our members are members of the Native Plant Society of Oregon and use OregonFlora. OregonFlora is an invaluable resource that becomes more valuable every year because knowledge of Oregon's ecosystems and environmental impacts constantly changes.

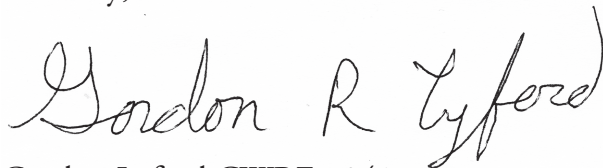
OregonFlora is an important source of botanical information used by state

and federal agency employees, botanists, horticulturists, researchers, consultants, students, Oregon citizens of all ages, and tourists. It is a beautiful, easy, and fun web application to use.

The Oregon Department of Agriculture's Native Plant Conservation Program relies heavily on OregonFlora. The [Native Plant Conservation Program](#) oversees the conservation and management of Oregon's listed plant species, in part because the native plants of Oregon are our natural history. Currently, OregonFlora depends on grants and donations to fund its work. State funding would ensure that OregonFlora is sustainable.

We suggest that the Oregon legislature put into statute indexed-based funding to sustain OregonFlora. For management purposes, the annual base appropriation could be routed to OregonFlora through Oregon State University's Department of Botany and Plant Pathology.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gordon R Lyford". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Gordon Lyford CWRE #341

Board Member