

January 31, 2025

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

Re: HB 3173 (OregonFlora) – SUPPORT

Dear Committee Members:

I am an outdoor enthusiast and gardener. I strongly support HB 3173, which will help fund the OregonFlora project at Oregon State University (OSU). I think so highly of OregonFlora that I donated my father's herbarium of Oregon plants to the OSU Herbarium. The OSU Herbarium has a partnership with OregonFlora, and I am very pleased and proud that my father's herbarium contributes to their joint work.

As a gardener, I rely on information from OregonFlora's website when selecting native plants to add to the five acres where I live. OregonFlora informs me about (1) plants that most likely will be resilient to climate change, (2) plants that are fire resistant, and (3) plants that protect against soil erosion. It is easy to toggle between ecological information, photos, and gardening advice, to form a deeper understanding of the needs of each species. This has resulted in outstanding success in selecting plants that are thriving on my property without applying fertilizer or summer water, even in heavy clay soil that is soggy in winter and as hard as concrete in summer.

In addition to using the OregonFlora website, I have purchased volumes 1 and 2 of *Flora of Oregon*, which is OregonFlora's hardback publication. Funds are needed for the completion of volume 3. This valuable reference is the only state flora published in the last fifty years. *Flora of Oregon* is beautifully illustrated and contains chapters on such topics as gardening with natives, and insect-plant relationships. I use these books for plant identification and to enhance my understanding and appreciation of native plants and their relationship to geography, geology, and ecoregions. I am not a scientist, but I can appreciate the hours of research and hard work that are necessary to produce this detailed and accurate compendium of knowledge.

I am a member of the Native Plant Society of Oregon, and OregonFlora helps my organization meet its mission: "Dedicated to the enjoyment, conservation, and study of Oregon's native plants and habitats." OregonFlora makes me an informed Oregonian, proud to live and learn in a state that values its natural resources.

I urge your support of House Bill 3173 to ensure that the resources of OregonFlora can continue to be maintained and developed for users statewide.

Sincerely,

Susan Dornfeld

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