

Submitter: David Judkins

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3173

I am asking you to support passage of HB3173. HB3173 will establish OregonFlora in statute and initiate a sustainable funding stream of \$400K per biennium to maintain a dynamic dataset that addresses plant taxonomic research and our growing awareness of new, invasive, and rare species in our state. Plants provide food and shelter to all organisms in the diverse biological communities of Oregon. In many cases species are dependent on one or a few plant species and their continued existence depend on the plant. Healthy plant communities are essential to regulating temperature, retaining water in the soil and preventing erosion. As a credentialed biologist and an informed conservationist and environmentalist I am confident that passage of this bill will aid in maintaining and enhancing healthy natural environments all species, including our own.