

Submitter: Marna Porath

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3173

As an outdoors enthusiast and gardener, I strongly support the Oregon Flora Project and HB 3173.

I use the Oregon Flora Project's website regularly to obtain the correct scientific name for native plants, to determine what plant family a species falls in, to discover what species a plant I've found is through the many detailed photos on the website, to check my spelling of scientific names, to find out how to grow these plants in my own home garden and to help educate others on all these topics. The accurate information saves me money by helping to identify those plants that will grow in my home garden and in the Native Plant Garden at McMinnville Public Library, where I volunteer my time each month.

For example, I order plant label signs for the McMinnville Public Library garden. These labels include both common and scientific name of species, as well as the plant family common and scientific names. The Oregon Flora website offers all these in one convenient listing, which saves me time and guarantees the information printed on these permanent signs is accurate before printing. Otherwise, I would inevitably make errors relying on various other websites and have to reprint these labels. Each label costs \$11, and we have more than 80 species of native plants in the garden, so the cost of errors would really add up for a nonprofit organization, the Native Plant Society of Oregon, and personally.

The same information is also used to print labels for the Wildflower Show at McMinnville Library, typically held in the spring of each year. Lack of this resource would make the show, an educational offering with hundreds of attendees, much more difficult for volunteers to do.

Every year, the Native Plant Society and I personally make contributions to the Oregon Flora Project, but these funds are limited. For the past few years, the Project has gotten by but had to cut staff. A reliable source of funding would enable the project to continue to meet the needs of Oregon taxpayers like me. So of course, I support HB 3173 to help fund the Oregon Flora program at Oregon State University. I hope the Committee also will support HB 3173 to ensure the resources of Oregon Flora will continue to be maintained and developed for users statewide.

Sincerely,

Marna Porath

Member, Native Plant Society of Oregon