

Aequinox
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February 1, 2025

SUBJECT: Support of HB3173

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to support HB3173 that will initiate a sustainable funding stream for OregonFlora to maintain a dynamic dataset about Oregon's plants. This is needed to keep Oregonians up to date in plant taxonomic research, aware of new, invasive, and rare species occurrences, and informed about Oregon's botanical resources. As a practicing Wetland Scientist and Restoration Ecologist, I often rely on the Oregon Plant Atlas to assist me in accurately identifying species and their distributions throughout the state. I work closely with land trusts and watershed councils, and many of my colleagues in these organizations also rely on OregonFlora Project. HB3173 will help OregonFlora continue to curate and share its data, which supports economic and ecological decisions made by land managers, businesses, and residents across Oregon.

Passing HB3173 is a powerful action in support of science-based knowledge about Oregon's plant diversity. It is imperative that we keep OregonFlora as an up-to-date and *freely available* resource in the future. Please vote in favor of HB3173.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen Allen". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Karen Allen