

Submitter: Kristi Newton

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3173

I strongly encourage the legislature to support funding for OregonFlora through House Bill 3173. OregonFlora is the only program in Oregon that curates and freely shares data about both native and non-native plants. OregonFlora has a significant economic impact by providing crucial information for agriculture, wildfire recovery, weed management, and more. In Central Oregon, it is essential to understand how to manage weeds to improve farmland, including areas used for livestock, and to minimize wildfire risks. Native plants can naturally suppress invasive weeds, which is vital given the severe impact of wildfires throughout Oregon and California in recent years. It is imperative to have OregonFlora as a trusted resource for this critical information.

Kristi Newton