

Submitter: JW Carpenter

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3173

Dear Members of the Oregon State Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong support for sustainable and long-term funding for OregonFlora, its "Flora of Oregon" publications, and its website. As an avid user of this invaluable resource, I can attest to its critical importance for understanding and protecting Oregon's unique and irreplaceable natural heritage.

I regularly utilize OregonFlora to identify plants within Oregon's Kalmiopsis Wilderness. The data I generate using OregonFlora is shared freely with the public through the iNaturalist website. By posting my observations, I add to the growing body of knowledge about Oregon's plant life, making this information freely accessible to researchers, conservationists, and fellow nature enthusiasts. This is a personal hobby made much richer and more efficient by OregonFlora, but the benefits of OregonFlora extend far beyond individual hobbyists and citizen scientists. This resource is essential for researchers, educators, land managers, and policymakers. It supports vital work in conservation, ecological restoration, and sustainable resource management, all of which contribute to the economic and environmental well-being of our state.

Investing in OregonFlora is an investment in the future of Oregon. I urge you to prioritize sustainable and long-term funding for this vital resource and ensure its continued accessibility for all.