

February 2, 2025

To: House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Re: HB 3173 (Oregon Flora) – SUPPORT

Dear Committee members:

My wife and I own and live on 55-acre parcel of rural property in Lane County. I have been working on restoring the property and making it a healthy and diverse habitat for native plants, pollinators, and other wildlife. It is important to me to be able to identify the plants on my property, native or weeds, common or rare. OregonFlora offers many resources to help me in my endeavor. Without steady funding of the organization, it would be difficult for them to continue to maintain and update their database, finish their excellent three-volume *Flora of Oregon*, and expand the information they provide. I strongly support HB 3173.

Being able to tell the difference between the aggressive non-native plant species on my property and the natives is important so I don't inadvertently remove native plants and so I can remove the invaders that can outcompete the native species. I also need to know which ones are rare. There is one state-listed rare species on the property, wayside aster, which OregonFlora describes in one their rare plant fact sheets:

<https://oregonflora.org/pages/content/eucvia.pdf>. Knowing what conditions it needs so I can protect is of great value.

OregonFlora has an excellent native plant gardening portal (<https://oregonflora.org/garden/index.php>), which helps me figure out which native species would be good for different habitats on the property and also lists nurseries where I can buy plants or seeds to replace the weeds I've removed.

I'm particularly concerned about how climate will continue to impact our property. One reason for the urgency to do restoration on the property is to make it more resilient to drought, which is already killing some of our trees, and to fire, which has become more and more of a threat in recent years. In the final volume of the *Flora of Oregon*, there will be a chapter on how climate change affects Oregon's native plants. This should be very valuable to us and to everyone else facing this frightening crisis.

I urge you to support House Bill 3173 to ensure that OregonFlora can continue to the great work it has been doing for so long to help Oregonians understand our flora.

Sincerely,

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