

February 2, 2025

To: House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Re: HB 3173 (Oregon Flora) – SUPPORT

Dear Committee members,

I'm an artist and photographer. My focus is on the rich natural history of Oregon, primarily plants but also insects and other animals. I illustrated the posters for the Mount Pisgah Arboretum Wildflower and Mushroom festivals for a number of years and have done t-shirt designs for a number of non-profit groups, including the Native Plant Society of Oregon, the Lane County Butterfly Club, and the Northwest Lichenologists. I've presented slide shows about native plants to many groups in the state.

I also have a website (westerncascades.com) devoted to the flora of the Western Cascades. I spend as much time as I can hiking in the Cascades, learning about the plants and animals, taking photographs, and writing about what I see.

For a plant lover, the multi-volume *Flora of Oregon* is a necessity for learning about our flora and knowing the relationships between the species. The OregonFlora website is also an invaluable resource to me. The huge gallery of photographs helps me identify plants, especially in parts of Oregon I'm not familiar with. The maps of distribution are particularly valuable, both for identifying what I've seen and for finding locations of plants I would like to see and photograph, including those I may need to use as references for artwork.

In return, I contribute many of my photographs and plants lists to OregonFlora— the central hub of all information on plants in Oregon—which makes my resources available to many others. But even the free use of the information I provide to OregonFlora requires many costly man hours to curate and upload to the website.

Constant maintenance of a complex website and database such as OregonFlora's requires a steady income. Currently, OregonFlora is supported entirely by donations, even though their resources are widely used by government agencies and non-profits doing the important work of protecting the natural resources of our state.

It is extremely important that OregonFlora gets assistance so it can continue its important mission. I implore you to support House Bill 3173.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tanya Harvey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, decorative flourish at the end of the name.

Tanya Harvey
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