

Submitter: Gail Langellotto

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3173

I am writing to express my strong support of HB 3172, which would provide long-overdue and much-needed funding to support the OregonFlora program. The data that OregonFlora makes widely and freely available to the public is an important resource for diverse Oregonian's and constituencies. In my professional life, I am a Professor at Oregon State University, that studies ways to plan, plant, and maintain sustainable gardens and landscapes. I rely on OregonFlora's database, the only one of its kind in the state, to ensure taxonomic accuracy of the plants that we study. We also use the database to discover plants that have promise for garden systems, but are not widely available in commercial trade. Finally, because native plants can be so difficult to source, we use the OregonFlora's gardening resource page to help us find and procure the plants we are looking for.

Native plants have grown in popularity with gardeners, landscape architects, and designers. They represent an economic opportunity for entrepreneurs wanting to tap into the native plant market. They also represent the cultural and natural heritage of our beautiful state. The OregonFlora program occupies that rare niche of supporting commercial opportunity AND conservation. OregonFlora deserves our state's support, investment, and gratitude.