

Submitter: Patricia Muir

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3173

February 2, 2025

To: The Honorable Representative Sara Finger McDonald and other members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water

From: Dr. Patricia Muir, Professor, Emerita

I am writing to urge your support for HB 3173, which would provide much-needed financial stability to Oregon Flora. While I am sure that you are familiar with this valuable project, here is a link that provides detailed information about the Oregon Flora Project.

https://www.npsoregon.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/HB-3173_OregonFlora_info-sheet_010725.pdf

I am a retired professor from the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology at Oregon State University. I taught and carried our research related to plant ecology there for nearly 30 years. My research focused on applied plant ecology – impacts of various logging methods on plant species composition and diversity; impacts of commercial moss harvesting on forest communities; impacts of various fuel reduction methods on plant communities, and so forth.

All areas of my research and that of my graduate students depended on knowledge of the plants of the areas of Oregon in which we worked. Without such detailed knowledge, impacts of land management activities on plant communities – and associated ecosystems – could not have been understood rigorously. The Oregon Flora project is essential.

Oregon supports an incredibly rich and diverse collection of plant species, owing in part to our size and geographic complexity – ranging from deserts to alpine peaks, from prairies to coastal dunes, fertile valleys and semi-sterile serpentine outcrops. This diversity is a treasure, one threatened of course by climate change and various land use policies and changes. It cannot be understood or protected without knowledge of who comprises it – the many plant species that are found here.

The Oregon Flora project provides the scientific underpinning for such knowledge and as such, it is essential. It is valuable also to those who simply enjoy nature and knowing “who” lives here!

My husband and I have contributed financially to the Oregon Flora project since its inception, and will continue to do so, but it needs and deserves more security and stability than can be provided by volunteer contributions.

Please support HB 3173 and thank you for all that you do.

Sincerely

Patricia Muir, Elizabeth P. Ritchie, Distinguished Professor