

Submitter: Rachel Werling

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3173

Testimony in Support of HB3173 – Funding for OregonFlora

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of HB3173, which will establish OregonFlora in statute and provide essential funding to sustain its work. As a botanist and former OSU Extension professional, I have relied on OregonFlora extensively to support landowners, natural resource managers, and community members in making informed decisions about plant identification, habitat restoration, and invasive species management.

OregonFlora is an unparalleled resource that provides scientifically accurate, up-to-date information on Oregon's plant diversity. Its user-friendly database and tools allow landowners to identify native and invasive species, select appropriate plants for habitat restoration, and better understand the ecological dynamics of their properties. Without this resource, many Oregonians—especially those working in land stewardship—would struggle to access reliable plant data crucial for conservation and sustainable land management.

The sustainable funding provided by HB3173 will ensure that OregonFlora continues to serve as a critical tool for Oregon land owners, educators, land managers, businesses, and residents. Investing in this resource strengthens Oregon's environmental resilience, supports our botanical heritage, and enhances economic and ecological decision-making statewide.

I urge you to support HB3173 and secure long-term funding for OregonFlora's essential work.

Sincerely,

Rachel Werling

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