

Submitter: Guston Cole

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 for HB 3173, which seeks to secure funding for the OregonFlora program at Oregon State University. As someone who has relied on the resources provided by OregonFlora for research and conservation efforts, I have witnessed firsthand how invaluable this tool is for anyone working with Oregon's unique plant life. Whether for managing invasive species, supporting wildfire recovery, or aiding restoration projects, OregonFlora has been a crucial resource for my work. For example, I've used the program extensively to identify native plants in local restoration projects, saving both time and money by avoiding costly misidentifications.

If OregonFlora were no longer available, it would have a significant negative impact on my work, as well as on the broader community. Not only would we lose an essential resource for plant identification and management, but it would also harm local agriculture and ecosystem restoration efforts. The economic impact would be felt across multiple sectors, from conservation groups to agriculture, as we would be forced to rely on less accurate, more costly alternatives. Furthermore, it has proved an invaluable resource for the average citizen interested in native plant identification and makes our native plants more accessible to the general public. I urge the Committee to support HB 3173 to ensure OregonFlora continues to support sustainable practices across the state.