

February 3, 2025

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

Dear Committee members:

I am a volunteer on several restoration projects in natural areas of urban Portland, as well as a gardener maintaining a Platinum Certified Backyard Habitat at my own home. I strongly support HB 3173.

As a member of the Native Plant Society of Oregon I rely on the useful and useable information from OregonFlora to both enhance my appreciation of the natural world and to share that with other Oregon residents. I have personally financially supported Oregon Flora and will continue to do so. The scholarly curation of the information by the OregonFlora team means it is accurate and valuable for both professional and casual use. It is not an "ivory tower" endeavor.

I am about as far from a trained botanist as one can be, having devoted my time to native plant propagation and habitat restoration only after having retired from 30 years as an automotive repair technician. I use OregonFlora information daily in my volunteer work assisting other volunteers to identify botanical resources and leading planting events and weeding parties in areas being restored. The data is curated by taxonomists, comprehensive, and readily accessible online. Its presentation of plant occurrences from multiple datasets lets me efficiently gather information that will be comprehensive in scope. OregonFlora's standardizing taxonomy assures that my work can be shared and accurately used by my fellow volunteers, avoiding duplication of efforts and confusion.

I urge your support of House Bill 3173 to ensure the resources of OregonFlora can continue to be maintained and developed for users statewide.

Sincerely,

Liz Dally

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