



Lane
Community College
Science Division

Anatomy/Physiology Biology Chemistry Earth & Environmental Sciences
Energy Management Physics Phone: 541-463-5446

Susan E. Holmes
Lane Community College, Biology Department
4000 E 30th Ave, Eugene, Or 97403
Feb 2, 2025

House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Oregon State Legislature

****Subject: Support for HB3173 – Sustaining OregonFlora as a Vital Resource****

Dear Legislature Members,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB3173, which seeks to establish OregonFlora in statute and provide a sustainable funding stream to maintain and develop this essential botanical resource. As a current botany instructor at Lane Community College and the curator of our institution's Rowe-Love Herbarium, as well as a professional practicing field botanist who documents local biodiversity, I rely on OregonFlora's comprehensive dataset to support my work in education, documentation, research, and conservation.

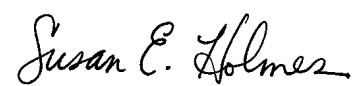
OregonFlora is an invaluable tool in my teaching, providing students with accurate, accessible, and up-to-date information on Oregon's rich plant diversity. Whether used for plant identification, ecological studies, or conservation projects, this resource fosters scientific literacy and a deeper understanding of our state's ecosystems. Its freely available data ensures that students, educators, land managers, and researchers—regardless of institutional affiliation—have access to high-quality botanical information.

Beyond the classroom, OregonFlora plays a critical role in field botany and biodiversity documentation. As Oregon faces increasing environmental challenges, the need for reliable plant data is greater than ever. This resource supports informed decision-making in land use, habitat restoration, climate resilience, and wildfire response. Ensuring OregonFlora remains well-funded will help maintain its role as a trusted source for conservation planning and ecological research.

I urge you to pass HB3173 and secure the future of this invaluable resource. OregonFlora's continued development is essential not only for the scientific community but also for all Oregonians who rely on accurate botanical knowledge to understand and protect our state's ecosystems.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan E. Holmes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent loop at the end of the last name.

Susan E. Holmes
Faculty, Plant Biology
Rowe-Love Herbarium Curator
Lane Community College
holmess@lanecc.edu