

Submitter: Steven Broich

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3173

My name is Steven Broich. I was a Ph.D. student of Dr. Kenton Chambers at Oregon State 1978-83. Since then I have been affiliated with the OSU herbarium while working on the Oregon Flora Project and on the Flora of North America Project.

Plant research - taxonomy, geography, ecology - is a long distance endeavor in both time and space. Over the years I have examined specimens dating as far back as the 1840's, have examined specimens on loan from more than 15 other herbaria, and have traveled over much of Oregon and northern California. All of this pre-dated the internet. The advent of the on-line databases such as OregonFlora database with its 1.48 million mapped plant occurrence records and its 63,000+ color photos has been a total revolution in the way plant research can be accomplished. Long-term support for the OregonFlora project can insure that future students and researchers will be able to cover vastly more territory with much less effort.

I urge you to support HB3173 - a minimal cost for an astonishing outcome.