

February 3, 2025

To: House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Topic: Support for HB 3173 (OregonFlora)

Dear Committee members:

I am a retired research ecologist and an outdoor enthusiast and gardener. I strongly support HB 3173. OregonFlora is an important resource to help citizens learn about native plants. It is also useful to professionals working on issues for rangeland and forest plants, restoration projects, and teaching students. The OregonFlora database manages and shares approximately 1.5 million Oregon plant occurrence records through interactive mapping tools on its website. This comprehensive dataset is scientifically verified. It is essential to understanding which plant communities might be vulnerable to climate change and to providing information to restore fire damaged landscapes. I have used OregonFlora to learn new native plants and to improve my knowledge for designing native pollinator gardens. Native pollinator gardens are important for increasing local plant biodiversity and supporting insects and birds that are plant pollinators.

OregonFlora has been around for 30 years and provides publicly accessible scientific knowledge about plants in Oregon. During its existence, it has survived precariously on donations. This important resource needs to have reliable and consistent financial support. I urge support of House Bill 3173 to ensure the resources of OregonFlora can continue to be maintained and developed for users statewide.

Sincerely,

*Carolyn T. Hunsaker*

Bend, Oregon