

2 February 2025

To: House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water
Re: HB 3173 (OregonFlora)

Dear Committee Members

Please support HB 3173. OregonFlora is an extraordinary resource for Oregon and the Pacific Northwest. I use the website and the publications daily in my work with the Oregon Bee Atlas, and as a volunteer with the Deschutes Land Trust. This is solid data curated by people with a deep understanding of the plants of the region (both native and introduced). It's handy for looking up unfamiliar plants, but it is also an archive of records going back over a hundred years—all there on my phone in the field if I need it. I pull it out when leading educational hikes, and when I am collecting samples for the Oregon Bee Atlas. I look up historic records when hunting unusual plants that host specific pollinators. The hard copies of Volumes 1&2 sit on my desk and are well-thumbed, full of scribbled notes and post-its. This is an invaluable reference for people who work in natural resource and land management.

Our home, Oregon, is a natural jewel. Programs like the OregonFlora show how we value our patch of the Pacific Northwest and how we work to keep it amazing. OregonFlora deserves stable funding so that it can keep doing the work it does so well.

Please, please support this bill.

Sincerely

Michele Sims
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