

Submitter: Karl Anderson
On Behalf Of: Native Plant Society of Oregon Emerald Chapter
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3173

I wish to testify in support of HB 3173. Since arriving in the state 30 years ago, I've been involved in the Native Plant Society of Oregon (NPSO), a 501(c)(3) statewide organization, becoming a life member in 2006. Currently I'm on the executive board of the NPSO's Emerald (Eugene and environs) Chapter. I'm testifying in that capacity, as well as for myself.

NPSO has sponsored the the Oregon Flora project since its inception, with the goal of publishing a new, formal flora for the state, printed as well as online. Two beautiful volumes out of three have been printed, and the OregonFlora.org website is a valuable, dynamic resource for botanical and ecological reference. As an enthusiastic amateur botanist, I frequently consult it as an authoritative source. I'm also involved as a volunteer in producing the 3rd volume. Volunteers help keep costs low, but while few OregonFlora contributors are paid, the professional staff are critical to its ultimate success. Development and maintenance of the botanical data and the electronic site are ongoing costs, as well. On behalf of Emerald Chapter NPSO members and myself, please make this value-added, up-to-date, scholarly and citizen resource a permanently-funded public service.