

Submitter: Lynda Boyer

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3173

Hello Representatives Helm and Owens and members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water. My name is Lynda Boyer from Salem Oregon, and I am the Native Plant Manager for Heritage Seedlings here in Salem and a member of the Oregon Flora Board since 2012.

As a grower of wild sourced native prairie seed and plants for Western Oregon prairie restoration, I would like to note the key values that the Oregon Flora's FREE on-line tools, as well as the written Flora, provides for both Heritage and our clients. These clients include agencies, non-profits, and private landowners, as well as retail businesses that provide native seed and plants to an increasing number of home-gardeners and landscapers interested in enhancing the habitat value of urban and suburban settings.

The Flora assists Heritage and other providers of native seeds and plants the ability to locate ecoregion appropriate wild collection sites for our starter seeds by providing a detailed map of ranges and occurrences.

The Flora allows Heritage to use the current botanical nomenclature so we and our clients are speaking the same language, identifying the appropriate species for their restoration projects.

Heritage donates seed and plants to community outreach projects and fundraisers to help promote the use of native plants in the landscape. The FREE online tools such as the GROW NATIVES section of the Oregon Flora, assists them in gaining important additional information on the habitat value of these native species. And the key role those landscapes play in helping our declining pollinator populations to rebound.

It has been amazing to see what the Oregon Flora Project has been able to accomplish in 30 years with funding provided solely through donations and grant-funding. It's been tough and go sometimes which has made the staff and users of the Flora very concerned. Permanent, stable, yearly funding is what all floras need to allow the on-going work of database management and reassurance to the end users that this vital public resource will be there in perpetuity.

Thank you,

Lynda Boyer