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Dear House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water,

Please accept these comments on behalf of the Lane County Audubon Society in support of HB 3173 to sustain the Oregon Flora Program. Lane County Audubon Society members are dedicated to the conservation of our natural environment, with a primary focus on birds and other wildlife and their habitats.

Lane County Audubon has established a backyard habitat certification program, Habitat Haven. The program has been met with great enthusiasm from community members. We advise participants on how to create native habitat, support birds and pollinators, and create healthy soils and sustainable water solutions. We use Oregon Flora as both a reference for our site assessment technicians and as a resource for community members looking to add native plants to their spaces. In addition, this resource freely provides valuable data that will help maintain wildlife habitats and healthy environments.

Thank you for your consideration.

Debbie Schlenoff, Ph.D. Conservation Chair Lane County Audubon Society