

Submitter: Tim Bradley

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3173

Thank you for considering the value of the OregonFlora. My community college students studying Natural Resources in Gresham, Oregon benefit very much from learning to use this living resource, OregonFlora, that will be with them throughout their careers. Unlike a book of plants (flora) that will be outdated as plant names and ranges shift, or as non-native species are introduced, the OregonFlora is a resource for our times. Students are very excited to learn botany as they see that in an instant they can download a recently-updated spreadsheet of every species in the Pacific Northwest and sort it to see native vs. naturalized, endemic, and groupings like ferns vs. conifers vs. different groups within the flowering plants. They also highly value the numerous color photos of each species, which is a superior way to learn to identify plants. The maps, plant names, and photos for each species bring an authority and confidence to teaching and learning botany in our region that is not possible with soon-to-be-outdated print materials or collections of preserved plant materials alone. The completeness, convenience, and quality of OregonFlora images and information allow a worker in a sensitive area to quickly confirm the identity of an introduced noxious invasive species, resulting in more immediate, lower-cost removal. My students no longer need to purchase or carry a bulky book of all the plants in our region. They have a free e-textbook on their phones linking them to OregonFlora and teaching them to use its many features for plant identification on-the-job. The donations received by this enormous project which have brought it this far show how important OregonFlora is, and how perfectly this resource hits the mark for professionals who work with plants.