

Submitter: Sarah Erskine

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3173

I would like to voice my support for this bill as it provides funding for a very important program. While plants may seem disconnected from everyday life for many people, documenting, understanding, and protecting the diversity of native plants in our state is critical for healthy functioning ecosystems and the other organisms that live in these ecosystems. Healthy ecosystems are more resilient to wildfire, create desirable recreation destinations, and help provide basic human needs like clean water and air. Healthy ecosystems only exists with a diversity of native plants, and the Oregonflora program helps keep up to date knowledge of our native plants that is vital for biologists working in these ecosystems. This small amount of funding support would have a huge impact for the future of our native plants and ecosystems here in Oregon. I do however, agree with Dominic Gentilcore that the location information of rare species should not be shared with the public for the safety of those plant species.

Thank you!