

Submitter: Jessica Wright
On Behalf Of: Earth and Spirit
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3173

As a small business owner specializing in native plant landscape design, I rely on OregonFlora as an essential resource in my work. It provides the comprehensive, science-backed plant data I need to create informed garden designs that support local ecosystems. The detailed plant occurrence records, fact sheets, and identification tools help me make responsible choices that benefit both my clients and the environment.

OregonFlora is not just valuable to professionals like me—it's a crucial public resource. Many Oregonians who care about sustainable landscaping or habitat restoration don't have the financial means to hire a designer. Because OregonFlora is free and accessible to all, it empowers individuals to make informed choices and create ecologically beneficial gardens on their own. This kind of public access to high-quality botanical data is rare, and it plays a key role in improving the landscapes we live in.

With Oregon's population and land development increasing, we need resources like OregonFlora more than ever. It supports ecological resilience, informs land management, and strengthens scientific literacy across multiple sectors. The continued funding of OregonFlora through HB 3173 is a smart investment in Oregon's environmental future. I urge you to support this bill to ensure that this invaluable resource remains available for all.