

2/4/2025 HB 3173 - A Bill to Establish OregonFlora in Statute

Dear Committee members,

I am writing in support of HB 3173 - A Bill to Establish OregonFlora in Statute. As a volunteer in the early 2000's, I coded (in Java) the first version of OregonFlora's web-based mapping tool that allowed users to see all locations where selected plant taxa are known to occur in Oregon. The tool has evolved substantially since that time, but its purpose remains the same – to let users quickly and easily visualize biogeographical patterns of plant distribution within the state. This mapping tool and the others the OregonFlora website provides, including one for identifying plants and another for searching the digitized collection at the OSU Herbarium, are of great value to resource agencies and professional land managers. These tools can also be useful for private landowners who want to know whether a given plant species occurs or is likely to occur on their property, or need help identifying an unknown plant they've found there. OregonFlora has provided these tools for public use for several decades now relying solely on grants, donations, and a lot of volunteer effort. Because funding sources have ebbed and flowed over the years, the program has been on the brink several times. The time has come to establish long-term, sustained funding for the program to ensure that OregonFlora can continue to provide its valuable services to the state.

Kind regards,
Clayton R. Gautier