

Submitter: Julia Bott

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3173

Dear Committee members,

I urge you to support HB 3173, supporting the Oregon Flora program. I believe that the expenditure is a valuable use for our taxpayer dollars, and it is not a significant impact on the state budget.

As a Master Gardener volunteer, who helps residents identify plants on their property or native plants for their landscaping, and Native Plant Society of Oregon member, who provides educational walks, I find Oregon Flora to be an invaluable resource.

The beauty of Curry County attracts visitors and is a vital part of our local tourism economy. Trusted, accurate, and free resources such as Oregon Flora are valued by tourists who want to identify local plants. Amateur botanists plan their trips based on the botany they want to see, and Oregon Flora is a great resource for such planning. These tourists spend dollars at local business.

It is also important for local residents to plan fire-safe concepts into the landscaping. Native plants are often better suited as fire-safe plants. They also are easier to care for and provide habitat for local animals, birds, and pollinators. Oregon Flora is a helpful resource.

Please vote yes on HB 3173.

Thank you for your consideration.

Julia Bott