

February 4, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

I strongly support HB3173 to establish the OregonFlora Program at Oregon State University.

I am a semi-retired professional botanist, born and raised in Oregon, and a graduate of Oregon State University's botany program in 1979. I use OregonFlora online many times each week, and I own and use the printed volumes of The Flora of Oregon, produced by OregonFlora staff.

Oh, how I wish OregonFlora had existed during my work as a field botanist, as a seed bank curator, as a botany program manager for the US Forest Service. The tools I had to work with were books with black and white illustrations, paper topo maps, and a compass!

Our natural world, including our native flora, is in distress. One of our most important tasks is to document what still exists, and what threatens its survival. My career has been focused on finding and documenting rare and endemic plants, banking seed from them, mitigating threats to our native flora from invasive plants and habitat destruction, and restoring native plants to places that have been damaged.

Some of the ways that I have used OregonFlora in my profession:

- To help me identify unknown native plants
- To help me identify nonnative invasive plants, so I can report them to local Ag departments, share the information with other natural resource managers, and collaborate on early detection and abatement
- To help me find locations for seed collection
- To help me choose which locally native species are suitable for restoration projects
- To quickly see which rare species are potentially at risk from a wildfire or fire suppression activities on public lands, and advise the Incident Command

On a personal note, I am a gardener. One of my goals as a gardener is to make a paradise for birds, butterflies, and native bees (because that also makes a

paradise for humans.) OregonFlora helps me choose suitable native plants for my garden in Ashland.

OregonFlora merits dependable support from the state of Oregon, for all of these reasons and more.

Thank you for your consideration.

Julie Ann Kierstead