

Submitter: David Taylor

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3173

Dear Committee:

As a Biology Professor at the University of Portland with a specialization in Botany, I can attest that the success of the Oregon Flora project is of critical importance to our understanding, conservation, and utilization of this precious natural resource. The Oregon Flora is a foundational source of up-to-date information on the plant species of Oregon, which I use to educate my University of Portland students-- who will be some of the future leaders in Oregon natural resource management.

Please see below for some bullet points on the diversity and importance of our Oregon plants and the Oregon Flora project.

Sincerely,

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--Oregon has 4,886 unique plant species that grow without cultivation. Of these, 70% are native species, and 120 are endemic and grow only in Oregon.

--The oregonflora.org website offers sophisticated search and plant identification tools, 1.48 million mappable plant occurrence records, 63,000+ color field photos, and fact sheets for every plant taxon.

--Oregon's economy depends upon its botanical resources. Healthy forests, productive rangelands, agricultural operations, outdoor recreation sites, and native plant horticultural businesses all need reliable data which OregonFlora provides.

--The requested support will leverage 30 years of research, volunteer effort, and citizen science contributions to develop the OregonFlora resources. Sustainable support will help ensure it is maintained.