

Submitter: Jess Tyler

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3173

OregonFlora is an important source of authoritative information on plant biodiversity in Oregon and I fully support it's permanent funding under this bill.

I am an environmental scientist and have lived in Oregon for 10 years. I use the Oregon Wildflowers app regularly when I am out exploring. The app relies on OregonFlora data and research and it helps me to better enjoy my time exploring because it allows me to quickly identify plants I see. Knowing the names of plants and some of their biology is enjoyable to me and helps me better appreciate the complexity and beauty of the natural world.

I also participate in the Master Mellitologist program through OSU and use OregonFlora resources to help identify the plants that are visited by the bees we are researching. OregonFlora is indispensable for this research.

Oregon has many endemic and rare plants and the OregonFlora research through OSU helps identify and understand the state of these special species. Accessible data on rare plants also helps wildlife agencies and other groups to protect species that are under threat.

Thank you. Jess