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4 February 2025

To: House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Re: HB 3173 (OregonFlora) - SUPPORT

Dear Committee Members,

I am a farmer, nursery manager, and business owner and am writing to express support for HB 3173 and OregonFlora. I represent a large and growing industry involving the restoration and management of native plants. Native plants support fundamental elements of our economy, including forestry and fisheries, and OregonFlora provides data and analytics that are crucial to sustaining native plants and their critical functions.

We market ecologically important species for agencies and individuals in land management, restoration, landscaping and home gardening. OregonFlora is a comprehensive plant data resource that allows us to accurately identify, promote and manage our native plant inventory. For our agency and private customers, OregonFlora provides readily accessible resources to help recognize native species and learn about their ecology and potential uses. This knowledge helps both nurseries and plant buyers make informed choices and helps propel the entire industry forward.

As a business that takes pride in contributing to work in native plant conservation and research, we appreciate having access to a world-class, comprehensive plant data set that is curated by professional taxonomists. We urge your support of House Bill 3173 to ensure the resources of OregonFlora can continue to be accessible to our growing industry and all Oregonians.

Many thanks for your consideration,

George Kral PhD, Forester

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