

Submitter: Cora Coronel

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3173

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing today to express my strong support for HB 3173, which would establish Oregon Flora at Oregon State University and provide essential baseline funding for this critical resource. As someone deeply invested in [mention your background, e.g., environmental sustainability, conservation, research, education], I recognize the immense value of Oregon Flora in supporting biodiversity conservation, ecological research, land management, and public education.

Oregon Flora is a foundational initiative that provides comprehensive, science-based information about the state's native and naturalized plant species. Its work is vital for:

**Biodiversity and Conservation:** Oregon's diverse plant life forms the backbone of its ecosystems, supporting wildlife, pollinators, and clean water sources. Oregon Flora's research and documentation efforts help land managers, conservationists, and policymakers make informed decisions that protect these critical species.

**Land and Resource Management:** Accurate plant identification is essential for sustainable agriculture, forestry, and habitat restoration. Oregon Flora serves as a trusted source of knowledge for landowners, farmers, and agencies working to balance economic growth with environmental stewardship.

**Climate Change Resilience:** Understanding plant adaptation and distribution is crucial as climate change intensifies. Oregon Flora equips researchers with the data needed to monitor ecosystem shifts and develop science-based mitigation strategies.

**Public Education and Accessibility:** From scientists and educators to gardeners and students, Oregon Flora provides an accessible, authoritative resource that fosters appreciation and stewardship of our state's botanical heritage.

Providing baseline funding through HB 3173 is essential to ensure Oregon Flora's continued success and expansion. Without stable financial support, this invaluable work is at risk of stagnation or loss, jeopardizing the benefits it brings to Oregon's environment, economy, and future generations.

I strongly urge you to support HB 3173 and invest in the long-term sustainability of

Oregon's plant research and conservation efforts. Thank you for your time and consideration.