

Submitter: Jennifer Lorang

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3173

I write this letter in hope that it might help you to understand why supporting HB3173 is so important to the people of Oregon, and to the country.

The Oregon Flora project provides such a valuable resource to many constituents. If you haven't visited their webpage (<https://oregonflora.org>) and used their valuable botanical resource tools, you should really check it out. This knowledge cannot be found anywhere else! Hard-working, knowledgeable scientists with unique skills and knowledge of plants spend endless hours creating these invaluable databases and online resources. Understanding what plants exist and where, is a fundamental part of human history and, literally, of human survival on earth!

The Oregon Flora resources keep Oregonians up to date in plant taxonomic research as well as new invasive and rare species occurrences. Plants (such as in agriculture, natural areas, forage and nursery crops) are the cornerstone of Oregon's economy! HB3173 will help Oregon Flora continue to curate and share its data, which supports economic and ecological decisions made by land managers, businesses, educators and residents across Oregon.

As an educator I regularly use the Oregon Flora resources. This resource is vital in educating all Oregonians, young and old, about the plants that help keep us and the ecosystems we inhabit alive. I would find it much harder to do my job well, without these resources.

Thank you for thoroughly checking out these resources and voting yes on HB3173.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Lorang