

Submitter: Tamra Prior

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3173

Hello, I am a former employee of the Oregon Flora Project, helping create several of their research tools during my time there. At its core, I believe that botany is the science that the rest of the life sciences hinge on. Without plants, we wouldn't have animals, wouldn't feed ourselves, wouldn't have the air we breathe. It's very important to understand the plants around us, how we impact them, and how they impact us. It's also very important that we understand how these plants have changed over time in Oregon, in relation to both location and diversity. It has been said that Plant Science is Climate Science, and regardless of what you believe on that, I do not think we can afford not to act on that and allow for more research. We cannot deny that summers are becoming hotter and drier and there are more fires. The ecological landscape is changing and we must understand how and what can be done about.

Oregon Flora Project has been at the forefront of this understanding for many years and their work is not yet done, nor should it ever be. Despite struggles due to lack of funding, OFP has created the first two of three volumes of The Flora of Oregon (with the third well underway). It is a magnificent work that I'm thrilled to have helped in small part, listing and describing every native and established wild plant in Oregon, a feat not done for 100 years before this work. It in itself is a valuable resource to people in all sorts of scientific fields, but it is but a part of what they do. I have met many people in various fields of scientific study who all have used these books, or the resources on their website, or even the Oregon Wildflower app, to some capacity in their profession. There are no other resources quite like what they provide, and they must be able to continue to provide them and improve upon them further. Please help OFP by passing HB3173 so that they can continue their important work for years to come. Thank you for your time.