

February 4, 2025

House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE, Salem Oregon 97301

RE: HB 3173 - The OregonFlora Program at Oregon State University

Dear House Committee Members,

As a resident of Jackson County, Oregon, where the impacts of climate change have already had a negative impact on the native flora and fauna of our area, I am asking for you to approve HB 3173. The importance of scientific/biological information for our native plants is critical to our ability to mitigate the damage that we are experiencing. OregonFlora is of vital importance for many reasons, including the following:

- Oregon has 4,886 unique plant species that grow without cultivation. Of these, 70% are native species, and 120 are endemic and grow only in Oregon.
- The oregonflora.org website offers sophisticated search and plant identification tools, 1.48 million mappable plant occurrence records, 63,000+ color field photos, and fact sheets for every plant taxon.
- Oregon's economy depends upon its botanical resources. Healthy forests, productive rangelands, agricultural operations, outdoor recreation sites, and native plant horticultural businesses all need reliable data which OregonFlora provides.
- The requested support will leverage 30 years of research, volunteer effort, and citizen science contributions to develop the OregonFlora resources. Sustainable support will help ensure it is maintained.

Again, I am respectfully asking that you approve HB 3173.

Best regards,
Lana Jo Terrell
PO Box 1371
Jacksonville, OR 97530