

Submitter: Rebekah Bergkoetter

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3173

February 4, 2025

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

Re: HB 3173 (Oregon Flora) - SUPPORT

Dear Committee members:

I have worked in the environmental field focusing on restoration, stewardship, and conservation of natural areas for over a decade and I strongly support HB 3173. The access to the taxonomic and botanical information provided by OregonFlora is a critical resource to my field of work.

OregonFlora is the most comprehensive collection of botanical data for the state, complete with identification, voucher records, and range maps. This data is brought together from multiple agencies and sources, consolidating vital botanical information across the state. This information allows for me to see any changes to the range of plants, native and invasive, as well as a guide in the best options for native plant restoration projects.

The OregonFlora website is also easy to use, and I can confidently recommend its use to other people in my profession as well as anyone with a general interest in plants.

I urge your support of House Bill 3173 to ensure the resources of OregonFlora can continue to be maintained and developed for users statewide.

Sincerely,
Rebekah Bergkoetter