

Submitter: Robert L and Gretchen Pederson

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3173

We urge you to support HB 3173, a bill that would help to provide long-term and sustainable support for the Oregon Flora Project.

This organization has tremendous importance for a wide range of people and provides benefits and data that will be of value to the state and elsewhere far into the future.

We both volunteer for the Oregon Bee Project <https://oregonflora.org>, a statewide program to survey native bees, provide information about best-use pesticide and herbicide practices, and offer public outreach about the importance of bees. The Oregon Flora Project is of incredible value to bee research as a resource for the identification and distribution of host plants.

The flora database is of increasing interest due to the necessity of protecting pollinators in a world where their overall numbers continue to decline. The information is also extremely helpful in restoration efforts that can benefit pollinators, fisheries, and other wildlife.

The Oregon Flora Project is important for agricultural industries, foresters, and for home gardeners because of the wealth of information about plant species found in Oregon. Weed control efforts by these groups benefit from data associated with this organization.

Climate change is altering growing conditions in the state and elsewhere, and wildfires are becoming more extreme. Because of this, it is critical to catalog and acquire new information about native flora to better face the changes in weather patterns and create more resilient and sustainable lands throughout the state.

Sincerely,

Gretchen and Robert Pederson

Bend, OR residents