

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

Re: HB 3173 (Oregon Flora) - SUPPORT

Dear Committee members:

I am a botanist who has worked in Oregon, California, Nevada, Colorado, and Wyoming. I strongly support HB 3173.

I frequently use the Oregon Flora to identify plants, determine species ranges, and gather information for plant cultivation. It is the best resource of its kind that I have used anywhere. The data is curated by taxonomists, comprehensive, and readily accessible online. Its presentation of plant occurrences from multiple datasets lets me efficiently gather information that will be comprehensive in scope. Oregon Flora's standardizing taxonomy assures that my work can be shared and accurately used by others, avoiding duplication of efforts and confusion.

Completing and publishing the third volume of Oregon Flora would be of immense benefit to botanists and other plant professionals throughout the state. It would increase our ability to quickly and accurately identify plant species, which is a necessary part of natural resource management. Likewise, losing access to the Oregon Flora website would hobble our work, slowing botanical research and reducing the quality of vegetation data.

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

Sincerely,  
Kyle Brine

kbrine2013@gmail.com  
(401) 658-6324  
15051 SE Cayuse Rd  
Prineville, OR 97754