

Submitter: Neil Bjorklund

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3173

Honorable Members of the Oregon Legislature—I'm a retired third-generation Oregonian. One the things I value about the state of Oregon is the beautiful and varied landscapes in our state and the plants that give them life. The Oregon Flora Project is an essential element of Oregonians' collective effort to steward our landscapes and their plants.

I am a volunteer lepidopterist, which means I study and educate people about our native butterflies, more than 170 species of them. I often use the Oregon Flora Project's online database of plants to search for plant species that are needed by particular butterflies. Butterfly host plants are those plant species which the larvae (caterpillars) of particular butterflies can eat. In many cases butterflies are adapted to eating only one plant species. When we want to understand a butterfly, we need to understand the range in which its host plants are found. This information is equally important for conservation of rare or threatened species. The Oregon Flora Project is one of the most valuable sources of information about host plants and where they occur.

I strongly urge you to vote yes on HB 3173, to support and sustain this valuable organization and its work, which supports effective stewardship of our priceless and irreplaceable landscapes.

Neil Bjorklund

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