

Submitter: Anna Perry

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3173

I am a graduating senior at Oregon State University (OSU), majoring in Crop and Soil Science and minoring in Horticulture. It is with great enthusiasm that I voice my support for HB 3173, establishing the OregonFlora Program at OSU.

In my time at OSU I've noticed that my peers are overwhelmingly interested in learning more about native plants. Generally speaking, there is much interest in native plants in both horticulture and agriculture, for landscaping, agricultural hedgerows, nursery production, and other industries. Despite this interest, most of the resources available to us as students focus on non-native plants for these applications. For example, the only undergraduate level course on plant propagation offers students no information or instruction on the propagation of native plants. Simply put, there is a serious dearth of verifiable research on propagation and production of many native plants. This is a major information gap, one that the proposed OregonFlora program at OSU could help to address. Nursery production is the biggest agricultural industry in Oregon. With the unprecedented public interest in native plants, OSU needs to be in a position to do necessary research, and educate students, professionals, and the general public about native plants, their propagation, and applications.

Since I am graduating at the end of this current term I know that, as a student, I won't be directly impacted by the passage of HB 3173. However, I know that future students in the College of Agriculture (and beyond) will benefit from having continued access to the data and resources provided by OregonFlora, and the opportunities presented by such a partnership. I hope that this testimony will convince anyone who is yet undecided about this partnership; an OregonFlora department at OSU will be a boon for researchers, students, horticulture and agriculture professionals, and the general public.