



February 5, 2025

RE: Support for HB 3173

Dear Co-Chairs Helm and Owens and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water:

East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District (EMSWCD) is in strong support for House Bill 3173 establishing OregonFlora in statute.

The EMSWCD is a local, non-regulatory government agency that works east of the Willamette River centerline in Multnomah County. Our mission is to help people care for land and water. We work to conserve and restore the natural resources of the district for current and future generations by making conservation technical, financial, and educational assistance available and meaningful to all residents and ensuring equitable distribution of benefits and responsibilities.

A core component of our organization's mission is to deliver science-based strategies to small acreage farmers, forestland owners, livestock owners, and urban communities. We often utilize Oregon State University materials in delivering information to our constituents and support making them more pertinent and accessible to wider audiences.

EMSWCD, along with numerous local partners, have contributed both staff time and financial investment to support the creation of OSU's Oregon Flora Program web tool. It is now imperative to fully realize this program and ensure its long-term viability through consistent public funding and support. We urge you to support HB 3173 for the benefit of people and places across Oregon.

Sincerely,

Kelley Beamer,
Executive Director
East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District