

Submitter: Fred Gebhart

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3173

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

Oregon's shrinking populations of native plants are a key resource that helps all of us to maintain and improve a healthy environment for both public and private lands across the state.

HR3171, Sustainable Funding for OregonFlora, would provide a much-needed permanent funding base for the science-based research conducted by Oregon State University and other entities and individuals. OregonFlora supports my own land and forest stewardship as a property own and Oregon resident in Jackson County.

OregonFlora provides unmatched, scientifically accurate and up-to-date information on our state's diverse plant communities across multiple geographic and climatic zones. I have spent well over a decade on my own property removing invasive species and replacing them with the most appropriate natives that grow in Jackson County. OregonFlora has been an invaluable source of reliable information for seeding and planting the most appropriate species for my property. The OregonFlora website provides a wealth of information virtually every day to help guide my own native plant restoration decisions and activities.

I urge all members of the House Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water Committee to vote YES for OregonFlora's Sustainable and Permanent Funding. It's a win-win for all of us in Oregon!

Thank you for your attention to this vital sue,
Fred Gebhart

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