

February 6, 2025

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

Re: HB 3173 (Oregon Flora) - SUPPORT

Dear Committee members:

I am a member of the Emerald Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Oregon who supports OregonFlora. I strongly support HB 3173.

As a member of the Native Plant Society of Oregon, I rely on the useful and useable information from OregonFlora to both enhance my appreciation of the natural world and to share that with other Oregon residents. My contributions of plant images and occurrences help to build this public resource. The scholarly curation of the information by the OregonFlora team means it is accurate and valuable for both professional and casual use.

For the past five (5) years I have resided at Willamette Oaks, a senior retirement community in Eugene. I lived in New Mexico for the past 40 years, so I am fascinated by the different plants here in the Pacific Northwest. I have made a concerted effort to identify all the trees and shrubs on the property where I reside and have shared that information with the other residents here at Willamette Oaks. I also use OregonFlora to identify the plants along the section of the bike path adjacent to our property. OregonFlora helps me understand the plants and become an informed Oregonian proud to live and learn in a state that values its natural resources.

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

Sincerely,

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