

Submitter: Jason Clinch

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB547

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Rules,

I ask you to support SB547 to make the month of April Oregon's Native Plant Appreciation Month. In the tradition of our recent governors of Oregon recognizing the importance of native plants and having declared April as Native Plant Appreciation Month, Governor Kotek signed a proclamation making April Oregon's Native Plant Appreciation Month for 2024 and for 2025. Passing SB547 would establish April permanently as Native Plant Appreciation Month in Oregon, avoiding annual proclamation requests.

As SB547 recognizes, Oregon's native plants provide unique environmental, economic and cultural value to this state, are essential to this state's healthy diverse and sustainable ecosystems; help create and maintain clean air and water and stable soil; and are a major part of this state's natural heritage, providing countless aesthetic, cultural, economic and ecological benefits. Given the importance of native plants, permanently designating April as Oregon's Native Plant Appreciation Month would encourage the public to learn about the benefits of native plants; could promote the conservation, restoration, and appreciation of Oregon's native plants; and could foster more native plants in the nursery and horticultural industries to make more plants available to the general public.

There is a strong and growing movement across the United States recognizing the importance of native plants. In 2021, a resolution was passed in the U.S. Senate (S. Res. 109), designating April as National Native Plant Month. This resolution was renewed in 2023, and 2024. Following the lead of Ohio in making April Native Plant Month a law in 2019 and California, Colorado, New Jersey, and Mississippi in the subsequent years, it is my hope that Oregon will become another in the nation.

Please support SB 547!

Jason Clinch
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