

Written Testimony in Support of SB 547
Designating April as Native Plant Appreciation Month

Dear Committee,

February 10, 2025

I joyfully write in **strong support of SB 547**, which will designate April as the month to celebrate Oregon's native plants as Native Plant Appreciation Month. There is no budget impact from this bill.

I am a rural Oregonian and volunteer with the South Coast chapter of the Native Plant Society of Oregon, as well as a home gardener with a native plant pollinator garden, and an enthusiast of recreation in Oregon's great outdoors. I was born and raised in Oregon and know that our awesome flora make our state great, from tiniest wildflower that requires a field glass to appreciate, to the towering Oregon Redwoods that draw tourists, provide unique wildlife habitat, and respire oxygen for the south coast.

April Aligns us with Our Neighboring States and the Rest of the US

I support declaring April because it is already when our neighboring states of Washington, California, and Idaho celebrate their Native Plant Appreciation Month, and April is the month that the governor of Oregon, at Native Plant Society of Oregon's request, declares Native Plant Appreciation Month. Furthermore, the US Senate has passed a resolution declaring April as National Native Plant Month in 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024. This bill means we could plan for native plant educational activities and outings, in coordination with our neighboring states and the rest of the United States, without needing to take the governor's time each year to declare it.

My Connection to Oregon Native Plants

At a young age it was impressed upon me how extraordinary our Oregon native plants are, from the sweet-smelling Western Azalea that lent its name to our town's annual festival to the famed Oregon Myrtlewood old growth stands. My science teacher drew our attention to the plants found miraculously thriving on our coastal Sea Stack rocks amidst intense conditions. Interpretive displays at botanical waysides shared about the jewel-like beauties of mariposa lilies and shooting stars found in hikes and our botanical trails that I love to explore. Stuck in road repair traffic along the Smith River Gorge on Highway 199, one can admire the wildflowers like bright-yellow seep monkeyflower, lavender Iris tenax, and vibrant red hummingbird trumpet.

Oregon we have some pretty cool botanical treasures! Oregon has 120 species that are ONLY found in our state. And 70% of the plant species in Oregon are native to Oregon (as opposed to brought in from elsewhere). **We should be the state/people who celebrate these cool plants that are utterly Oregonian.**

Thank you in advance for your support of SB 547.

Sincerely,

Cora Rose, PO Box 490, Brookings, OR 97415