

Submitter: Rachel Werling
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB547

Rachel Werling
Feb. 10, 2025

Senate Committee on [Relevant Committee Name]
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for SB 547 – Establishing April as Oregon’s Native Plant Appreciation Month

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB 547, which would designate April as Oregon’s Native Plant Appreciation Month each year. This legislation is an important step in raising awareness about the vital role native plants play in Oregon’s ecosystems, economy, and cultural heritage.

Oregon is home to over 3,400 native plant species, including 120 found nowhere else in the world. These plants support pollinators and wildlife, conserve water, stabilize soil, and increase resilience against climate change. They also hold deep significance for Indigenous communities and contribute to Oregon’s unique identity.

By officially recognizing Native Plant Appreciation Month, SB 547 will help educate Oregonians about the value of native plants and inspire greater stewardship of our natural landscapes. Increased awareness leads to better conservation efforts, responsible landscaping choices, and stronger support for habitat restoration.

As a botanist and supporter of Oregon’s natural landscapes, I have seen firsthand how native plants are essential to our ecosystems, economy, and cultural heritage. I urge you to pass SB 547 and help ensure that future generations of Oregonians understand and appreciate the incredible plant diversity that makes our state so special.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Rachel Werling