

Submitter: Susan Holmes
On Behalf Of: Oregon Flora HB3173
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB3173, which seeks to establish OregonFlora in statute and provide a sustainable funding stream to maintain and develop this essential botanical resource. As a current botany instructor at Lane Community College and a professional field botanist who documents local biodiversity, I rely on OregonFlora's comprehensive dataset to support my work in education, research, and conservation.

OregonFlora is an invaluable tool in my teaching, providing students with accurate, accessible, and up-to-date information on Oregon's rich plant diversity. Whether used for plant identification, ecological studies, or conservation projects, this resource fosters scientific literacy and a deeper understanding of our state's ecosystems. Its freely available data ensures that students, educators, land managers, and researchers—regardless of institutional affiliation—have access to high-quality botanical information.

Beyond the classroom, OregonFlora plays a critical role in field botany and biodiversity documentation. As Oregon faces increasing environmental challenges, the need for reliable plant data is greater than ever. This resource supports informed decision-making in land use, habitat restoration, climate resilience, and wildfire response. Ensuring OregonFlora remains well-funded will help maintain its role as a trusted source for conservation planning and ecological research.

A \$400K biennial investment in OregonFlora sustains decades of expert work that agencies and businesses lack the time, funding, or expertise to replicate. As environmental challenges grow, so will the need for these trusted resources.

Plant data—such as maps and taxonomy—constantly evolves. Ongoing stewardship ensures OregonFlora's 31-year commitment to data accuracy and public access continues to serve government, business, education, and the public statewide.

For natural resource agencies, OregonFlora provides essential tools to identify, track, and manage native species, rare plants, and invasive weeds—helping them fulfill their mission effectively.

I urge you to pass HB3173 and secure the future of this invaluable resource. OregonFlora's continued development is essential not only for the scientific

community but also for all Oregonians who rely on accurate botanical knowledge to understand and protect our state's ecosystems.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Susan Holmes
Botany Instructor & Field Botanist