

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB547

I support making April Oregon's Native Plant Appreciation Month. Native plants are critical for protecting the ecological balance of local ecosystems. They support the native wildlife, such as pollinators (bees, butterflies, etc.), birds, and other animals, by providing food, shelter, and nesting sites. These plants have evolved alongside local species, making them well-suited to the area's climate and soil.

By preserving native plants, we help protect the diversity of Oregon's natural habitats. Native plants form the foundation of healthy ecosystems, contributing to the overall biodiversity of the state. When non-native species are introduced, they can outcompete native plants, leading to a loss of biodiversity.

Many native plants are adapted to Oregon's climate, meaning they require less water, fertilizers, and pesticides than non-native species. This makes them more sustainable, particularly in areas where water conservation is important.

Native plants are adapted to the local soil conditions and root systems, which help prevent soil erosion, improve soil health, and stabilize landscapes, especially in areas prone to landslides or flooding.

Native plants are often integral to Oregon's indigenous cultures, providing resources for food, medicine, and traditional crafts. Preserving these plants honors the heritage and practices of Native American communities in the region.

Climate Change is a reality. Native plants are generally more resilient to the local climate and weather patterns. As climate change affects temperature, precipitation, and seasonal patterns, native plants are better equipped to adapt, unlike non-natives that may struggle to thrive under changing conditions. Our native plants, especially trees, also sequester carbon mitigating risks.

Native plants, especially the Douglas fir and Western hemlock, are the backbone of the timber and construction industries.

These are just a few of the reasons I respectfully urge you to support SB 547