

Submitter:

Suzanne Ortiz

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB547

I am writing to support SB 546A designating April as Oregon's Native Plant Appreciation Month.

I value the importance of native plants & devote many volunteer hours to working on projects that support native plants. I have resided in Corvallis, Oregon for over 14 years & have worked with a number of non-profits in my community that offer volunteer opportunities to propagate, promote & protect native plants.

I volunteer with the field trip committee of the Mid-Willamette Bird Alliance & we offer field trips throughout Oregon. On these trips, our participants enjoy birds, wildlife and native plants & wildflowers. Our travels to these far-flung locations provide an opportunity for us to contribute to the local economies by staying in motels, eating in restaurants and shopping in local stores.

Each April, our local chapter of the Native Plant Society of Oregon, conducts 3-4 hikes where participants can enjoy wildflowers & have spirited discussions about pollinators, ecosystems, impacts of climate change, soil health, and significance to Indigenous cultures. I've joined these hikes/walks & enjoy the beauty of the flowering plants and the stimulating discussions.

Each spring, I join other volunteers throughout Corvallis to host events for the public to celebrate natural areas. The guests who visit Hesthavn Nature Center, where I volunteer, take a short walk on our trail along Oak Creek & see the display of larkspur and bleeding hearts that are in bloom. They return from the woodland & talk about their peaceful experience, the singing birds, and the beautiful native plants.

Designating April as Native Plant Appreciation Month would provide an opportunity for locale's throughout Oregon to highlight their special natural areas & the beautiful native plants that can be seen at these sites.

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