My name is Luci Moody, and I'm writing to you today in my personal capacity—not as a staff member of the Oregon Legislature, but as someone who deeply cares about Oregon's natural lands. I'm writing to express my enthusiastic support for **SB 547A**, a bill that would officially recognize April as *Native Plant Appreciation Month* in Oregon.

This bill grew from a 2023 partnership between the Native Plant Society of Oregon (NPSO) and the Portland Garden Club (PGC). Their goal? To raise awareness about the importance and beauty of native plants—and to inspire all Oregonians to help protect them. Seven other states have already passed similar bills, and I hope Oregon will proudly become the eighth.

**Why do native plants matter?**

- **They support healthy ecosystems.** Native plants help clean our air and water and create thriving, diverse habitats for wildlife.

- **They can be naturally fire resilient.** Unlike non-native species, many native plants are better adapted to our local conditions and can be fire resilient or resistant.

- **They're cost-effective.** Once established, native plants typically require less water, fewer fertilizers, and fewer pesticides than non-native species.

**What could Native Plant Appreciation Month do?**

- **Inspire** schools, community groups, and local leaders to host events and educational programs focused on native species.

- **Encourage** public engagement in backyard habitat programs and volunteer restoration projects.

- **Raise awareness** of and support for the work of watershed councils and other organizations.

- **Promote** more native plants in the nursery and horticultural industries to make more native species available to the public

Groups like the NPSO and PGC are already doing incredible work—hosting community events, organizing restoration efforts, and advocating for native species. A dedicated month would help expand these efforts and get more Oregonians involved.

Thank you for considering this important bill. I strongly urge your support for **SB 547A**.

Warmly,
 **Luci Moody**