

Submitter:

Linda Hardison

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB547

I strongly support SB547, and respectfully request that House Committee on Rules adopts this measure to designate April as Native Plant Appreciation Month.

There is immense value in raising awareness of our state's natural resources, and Oregon's plant life is the foundation of both its economy and quality of life. Of the ~4,800 unique types of trees, shrubs, herbs, grasses, and ferns, 69.9% of them are native [<https://oregonflora.org>]. The landscapes that these native species create are what we all hold dear: iconic Douglas-fir forests, unique and rare plants of the Siskiyou, the sagebrush sea of central Oregon sprawling to the rugged Steens Mountain and Owyhee canyonlands. The allure of all these places are the plants that make them unique. Native plant diversity is the essence of what lets us know that we are in Oregon.

SB547 brings opportunities and reasons for Oregon residents to engage with its unique plant life. That may mean buying native plants from a local nursery, enjoying outdoor recreation businesses and facilities, participating in learning opportunities through nature centers and clubs. All of these activities contribute to a vibrant community. Appreciating native plants makes us appreciate our home state as the ideal place to live.

Please pass this bipartisan, cost-free bill that celebrates Oregon's botanical heritage.

Sincerely,

Linda Hardison