

Dear Committee Members,

OregonFlora is one of the largest resources for identifying native plants. This is huge considering Oregonians want to grow native species in their gardens and landscapes, Oregonians enjoy botanizing and identifying native plants recreationally and professionally, as well as keeping an online space and resource that contains all of OSU Herbarium specimens. This free resource is imperative to the protection of native plants, especially the rare and endemic species to Oregon. I am a botanist that works for the Bureau of Land Management. OregonFlora provides botanical and taxonomic knowledge that lets me effectively do my job. Long-term funding for OregonFlora is imperative. House Bill 3173 will establish OregonFlora in statute and create an initial appropriation of \$400,000 to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission for distribution to OSU for OregonFlora.

I urge you to support House Bill 3173 to ensure the resources of OregonFlora can continue to be maintained and developed for uses statewide.

Sincerely,  
Mara Huang