

Submitter: Ron Halvorson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3173

Greetings. I am writing in support of HB 3173, which would establish and fund Oregon Flora by statute. I have been involved with Oregon Flora to some degree since its inception in the 1990s and have used its resources extensively both professionally as an agency botanist and incidentally as I advise friends and contacts on plant identification and other issues. For a time I also wrote a weekly wildflower column in our local newspaper and used Oregon Flora for much of my source material. I volunteer on the board of the Crooked River Weed Management Area and again, Oregon Flora is used as a resource to help determine plant identification and distribution within Oregon. It is a fabulous resource for anyone interested in Oregon's plant resources. I have personally submitted plant collections to the OSU Herbarium, which then populates Oregon Flora, and have supported it financially. Since its inception a steady source of support has been elusive, and many people, especially volunteers, have gone above and beyond to keep the project going. It's time the project had at least a measure of stable funding and legislative support. As you no doubt have seen, there is an information sheet about this issue at [https://www.npsoregon.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/HB-3173\\_OregonFlora\\_info-sheet\\_010725.pdf](https://www.npsoregon.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/HB-3173_OregonFlora_info-sheet_010725.pdf)

Thank you for your consideration.