

Feb 2, 2025

To: House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Re: HB 3173 (Oregon Flora) - SUPPORT

Dear Committee members:

I am a volunteer with Pollinator Project Rogue Valley and tend many pollinator gardens in my community. It is vital for pollinator conservation that native plants be preserved, since pollinators have little chance of long term survival without a great percentage of the plant life they visit being native. Pollinators are facing a major survival challenge, and the best thing to support pollinators is native plants. Without pollinators being in great thriving numbers, our agriculture and economy will not thrive either. And entire ecosystems could collapse. So the more information there is on native plants to support the gardeners (and farmers, researchers, etc), the better.

The OregonFlora database is a key resource for detailed native plant information, which gardeners like me depend upon to keep creating and maintaining effective pollinator gardens. The more we know about native plants, the more we will grow them in the right locations - and give them the right conditions - for their survival. When native plants thrive in our gardens, pollinators are better served.

I strongly support HB 3173. The OregonFlora database needs to be a consistent, reliable resource, which requires consistent, reliable funding.

OregonFlora helps me do my job as a pollinator gardener, and helps Pollinator Project Rogue Valley meet its mission. OregonFlora makes me an informed Oregonian proud to live and learn in a state that values its natural resources.

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

Sincerely,

Gwyn E. Peridot

Ashland, Oregon