

Submitter: Linda A Poppenheimer

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3173

OregonFlora provides comprehensive information about the ~4,700 vascular plants of Oregon, making this knowledge accessible and relevant to public, state, and federal agencies, educational institutions, businesses, scientists, and others through Flora of Oregon publications, a website, distribution maps, field photos, and identification tools.

Since 1994, OregonFlora has expanded to serve diverse users seeking knowledge. The program has relied upon grants and donations to fund 100 percent of salaries, employee benefits, and direct operating expenses for the past 30 years. Given the program's significant growth, benefits to statewide agencies and institutions, and its value to Oregon's natural resource-based economy, this funding approach is no longer sustainable.

Please support House Bill 3173 to establish OregonFlora in statute and create an initial appropriation of \$400,000 to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission for distribution to Oregon State University for OregonFlora.