

Written Testimony Submission Form

2/2/2025 **HB 3173 - A Bill to Establish OregonFlora in Statute**

Dear Representative Marsh and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use Natural Resources and Water.

I am writing to **strongly support** HB 3173 - A Bill to Establish OregonFlora in Statute. This action is way past due for a resource that has supplied the forestry, agricultural, horticultural, wildlife, tourism and conservation interests of our state over 4 decades! Agencies that use this resource DAILY are US Forest Service, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, Lane County Parks, Eugene City Parks and Open Spaces and natural science classes at University of Oregon, Oregon State University and Lane Community College to mention only a few organizations.

OregonFlora maintains an **enormous database** and website about plant diversity on behalf of Oregon and serves diverse users seeking plant knowledge. The program has relied upon grants and donations to fund 100 percent of salaries, employee benefits, and direct operating expenses. 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. **Long-term and sustainable funding is needed NOW to ensure that OregonFlora can continue to provide this service.**

Best regards, Gail A. Baker

Lane Community College Biology Instructor (retired)

Native Plant Society of Oregon

Stewardship & Advisory Committee Friends of Buford Park a Lane Co Park