

Submitter: Nikkie West
On Behalf Of: Sparrowhawk Native Plants
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural
Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3173

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to voice my strong support for HB 3173. I am the owner/operator of Sparrowhawk Native Plants, a Portland-based small business. We're an innovative native plant nursery that sells over 80,000 native container plants and seed packs to our customers and uses a community giveback model where we partner with local non-profits to distribute the plants. The partner groups earn up to \$40,000 annually for partnering with us.

I use OregonFlora regularly to research and verify critical information about the plant species Sparrowhawk sells. This day in age, the internet has become an unreliable landscape of sponsored content. It is more important than ever that we have access to research-driven, data-supported information that we can trust. OregonFlora offers sophisticated search and plant identification tools, 1.48 million mappable plant occurrence records, 63,000+ color field photos, and fact sheets for every plant taxon. These tools support knowledge of and conservation for the 4,886 unique plant species that grow without cultivation in the fine state of Oregon. Oregon's economy depends upon these botanical resources.

Healthy forests, productive rangelands, agricultural operations, outdoor recreation sites, and native plant horticultural businesses (like mine) all need reliable data which OregonFlora provides. The requested support will leverage 30 years of research, volunteer effort, and citizen science contributions to develop the OregonFlora resources. Sustainable support will help ensure it is maintained. Thank you for your consideration!

Sincerely,
Nikkie West
Sparrowhawk Native Plants