



**Oregon State
University**

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February 4, 2025

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

Re: HB 3173 (OregonFlora)

Dear Committee Members:

As Director of the Oregon State University Herbarium, I am writing to express my strong support for HB 3173.

The OSU Herbarium maintains a research collection of ca. 700,000 specimens of plants and fungi, with a temporal span of 150 years from the 1870s to the present day. Since its inception in 1995, OregonFlora and the OSU Herbarium have worked closely together. OregonFlora has been very successful in synthesizing and disseminating scientifically accurate and up-to-date information about the plants of Oregon to a very broad audience of stakeholders. An essential first step was the digitization of the ca. 170,000 Oregon plant specimens in the OSU Herbarium, and this was accomplished through collaborative National Science Foundation grants. Data from these digitized specimens are now essential for the daily operations of the herbarium, and form the foundation for the published Flora treatments. Through the OregonFlora website these specimen data (and much more) are made freely available to professionals, students, and the general public in a very accessible framework.

OregonFlora greatly amplifies the ability of the OSU Herbarium to serve our education, research and outreach missions. Providing a stable financial footing for OregonFlora will allow this mutually beneficial partnership to continue well into the future.

Sincerely yours,

Aaron Liston, Professor and Herbarium Director