

This testimony is in support of House Bill 3173.

As Oregonians, my parents always emphasized our responsibility to steward the various natural resources that are our heritage in Oregon. Plants make up a large part of this heritage, with about 3,400 native species occurring within the state's boundaries. Some of these plants grow nowhere else on Earth. The database at Oregon Flora is an invaluable tool for scientists, ranchers, farmers, land managers, students, and curious minded plant enthusiasts like me. Oregon Flora not only helps me identify the native species I encounter at home and in the wild, but also the non-native species that occur on my property. Controlling invasive species is a high priority for land users in the state. More and more people are using the website as they discover its applicability across many sectors of our economy. The photos, maps, and descriptions are what make Oregon Flora user friendly for everyone. As grants dry up and volunteers are even scarcer, it's imperative that Oregon Flora secures stable funding for a service that's available to all US citizens. I urge you to support House Bill 3173.

Sincerely,

Penny Burleson