

Submitter: Heron Brae

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3173

As a field botanist and educator, I support the sustained funding of Oregon Flora Project as an invaluable educational resource within our state. I am also a volunteer editor for a chapter in the upcoming Flora of Oregon volume 3 highlighting the long history of Indigenous connection to the plants and lands of Oregon. The work Oregon Flora is doing is unique in several ways. It is a historic move to uplift Indigenous history and highlight Indigenous Knowledge in a western scientific volume, which brings a broader perspective to human-plant relationships into the public eye and long-awaited respect for the knowledge of the first people of the land from western scientists. This is part of a growing understanding of the need for western science to learn from Indigenous Knowledge and incorporate methodology and perspectives from it in order to be better stewards of our environment. Oregon Flora has also been unique in creating accessible pathways for more lay-public to access botanical knowledge, with easy to understand website and a printed flora with public interest chapters preceding the classic technical botanical flora. Sustained funding would be invaluable security to maintain and improve upon this much-beloved institution of local botanical knowledge stewardship.