

Submitter: Heather Boright  
On Behalf Of: HB3173 OregonFlora  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

Dear Members of the Joint Ways & Means Committee,

My name is Heather Boright, and I'm writing to ask you to support funding for OregonFlora through HB3173 as part of HB5006. As an educator in agroecology and ecological horticulture, I recognize what an essential tool OregonFlora can be to help teach people how to care for our land and make informed decisions about plants.

OregonFlora's database is a treasure trove of information about native plants, rare species, and invasive weeds. It's freely available and has been a go-to resource for me and countless others across Oregon.

This program is worth every penny of the \$400,000 per biennium investment. It builds on over 30 years of work that no single agency or organization could replicate. OregonFlora helps state agencies meet their missions, supports businesses with accurate plant data, and empowers educators like me to inspire the next generation of environmental stewards.

I hope you'll prioritize funding for HB3173 under HB5006 to keep this vital resource available for all Oregonians. Thank you for considering my testimony!

Sincerely,  
Heather Boright  
Albany, Oregon