

Date: April 15, 2025

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

Re: HB 3173, A Bill to Establish Oregon Flora in Statute

Dear Committee members:

I am a retired Professor of Botany at Oregon State University, a member of the Native Plant Society of Oregon, and a strong supporter and admirer of the Oregon Flora Project, the organization responsible for the OregonFlora. I have used the Oregon Flora professionally and, continuing into retirement, for pleasure. Before the Oregon Flora Project became established, information about the plants of Oregon was limited to books and articles written decades earlier, and therefore not up to date. The Oregon Flora Project has done a brilliant job of making current information about plants and ecosystems of Oregon available to anyone with access to the Internet or access to a public library. Their Flora of Oregon books are the best and most thorough of their kind that I have encountered (and I have on my shelf floral books from many other states).

The Oregon Flora Project has helped citizens of Oregon in many ways, from protecting Oregon's natural resources and productive ecosystems to inspiring students to learn more and care more about the plants of Oregon. Accurate and up to date information is crucial to these benefits. The Oregon Flora Project is a wonderful example of how to do this well, how to benefit a broad swath of users, and how to support Oregon state agencies meet their mission by giving them the tools they need.

I urge your support of House Bill 3173 to ensure the resources of OregonFlora can continue to be maintained and developed for users statewide. It will be an investment that will pay dividends to Oregon for many years into the future.

Sincerely,

Professor Mark V. Wilson, Emeritus
wilsomar@oregonstate.edu