

Submitter: Jennifer Lippert
On Behalf Of: Emerald Chapter Native Plant Society of Oregon
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

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To: Members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water
Regarding: Support for HB 3173

Dear Representatives,

I would like to thank you for taking up this important Bill to fund the OregonFlora program.

Members of the Emerald Chapter of the Native Plant Society (150 members) were some of the first volunteers to help with this project starting in the early 2000's. Twenty years later, the program has produced 2 volumes of the Flora of Oregon and an unparalleled website that is used daily by professional and amateur botanists, gardeners, invasive plant managers, foresters and ecologists throughout the state. None of these entities alone have the resources to manage, maintain and update this data.

As a botanist for the Forest Service, I used OregonFlora to help identify plants when I surveyed timber sales, to keep abreast of new taxonomic changes so that my reports would be accurate, to check what the ranges were for plants within the state to determine rarity and distribution, to determine whether a plant was native or exotic- to name a few. I can easily say my staff at the Willamette National Forest (15 including summer seasonals) also used this application frequently. Using OregonFlora saved my staff countless hours of keying out plants and consulting numerous floras to determine species ranges and distributions.

In retirement, I use OregonFlora for many purposes. We use the website and it's OregonWildflowers app to identify plants on our Native Plant Society field trips. I use the plant identification and mapping tools to identify plants in iNaturalist, a world-wide species distribution database.

As a Master Gardener trainee, I use OregonFlora for plant identification. The OregonFLora module that discusses gardening with native plants is a great resource to send members of the community to if they want to start gardening with natives.

I urge you to support HB3173 and provide OregonFLora with a funding base that will allow it to maintain its excellent and useful content for many of our Oregon citizens as well as many government agencies. Maintaining this investment is a good use of our tax dollars.

Sincerely yours,

Jennifer Lippert

President, Emerald Chapter, Native Plant Society of Oregon

Oregon State University Master Gardener trainee

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