

Submitter: Arti kirch
On Behalf Of: HB 3173
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

I am a member of the Native Plant Society of Oregon and a board member of Pollinator Project Rogue Valley. You are likely acquainted with the former.. The latter is a small but mighty non-profit whose mission is to promote education about the importance of pollinators in the systems that surround us. In service of that mission, we talk constantly about the role of plants - specifically native Oregon plants - without which a lot of the rich life around us would simply cease to exist.

We have a critical dependence on Oregon Flora which we use in our classes, signage, and literature to teach people about native Oregon plants. The dependable excellence of Oregon Flora enables us to educate our fellow Oregonians with complete confidence about what native plants can do for them: save water and maintenance costs by using natives which are perfectly adapted to their local conditions; provide shade in our increasingly hot summers; enlarge social circles by getting people involved with others who are engaged in learning and gardening with natives; and last but no least, delight adults and children with the bees, butterflies, and birds attracted to native plants.

The lives that are enriched by the discoveries that good information like Oregon Flora enables cannot be understated. That is why HB 3173 should be approved. Oregon Flora is a huge bargain from a cost benefit perspective -- the costs are modest but the benefits are far-reaching and can have a life-long-term return on investment.

Sincerely,
Arti Kirch