

16 April 2025

Dear Committee Members,

I am a conservation botanist who works in seed production management for the Scholls Valley Native Nursery team in Washington County OR and am writing to express my overwhelming support for HB 5006.

As a botanist working in the native nursery industry, it is my job to know key features that define the hundreds of different native species I work with everyday. OregonFlora has been an integral resource throughout my entire career and is the reason I am able to manage and provide guidance to our work teams who provide my position with the plant material I refine for propagation. Whether I am teaching a team member the difference between a willow or alder species onsite, identifying offsite habitat zones for seed collection, using the Flora of Oregon books to key plants or discern important species from one another, or using OregonFlora's online tools to identify an invasive species onsite, I am constantly reminded through my livelihood just how crucial this resource is.

As someone who participates in native plant conservation work, I appreciate having access to comprehensive and readily accessible data that is curated by taxonomists. As this information is always changing, the dataset needs ongoing stewardship to remain effective. This valuable resource allows me to efficiently gather and present information that will be comprehensive in scope. The passing of this bill will allow OregonFlora's 31-year investment in data management and sharing to continue, providing uninterrupted support for its diverse stakeholders across government, businesses, education, and residents statewide - including state agencies.

Additionally, as an outdoor enthusiast, OregonFlora continues to provide me with native plant knowledge that allows me to walk into a forest with a deeper understanding of the biodiversity that occupies the natural landscapes of this amazing state we call home.

As the need for these resources is likely to increase as time goes on, I urge your support of House Bill 5006 to ensure the resources of OregonFlora can continue to be maintained and developed for users statewide..

Sincerely,

Amadeo Ramos Jr.

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