

Why endorse the The Botanical Sciences and Native Plant Materials Research, Restoration and Promotion Act?

Plants are central to the future of scientific discovery, human well-being, and the sustainable use and preservation of the nation's resources. The botanical community in the United States plays a mission-critical role in researching, conserving, and sustainably managing our plant diversity and resources. Native plants and botanical expertise are required to address current and future grand challenges and issues in the United States, including climate change mitigation as well as land management and wildlife habitat conservation and restoration.

A group of organizations involved in conservation, botanical sciences, and native plant issues have been working over the past several months to develop proposed federal legislation to promote these objectives. Through these efforts, we have developed draft legislation to support the hiring and placement of botanical scientists, create demand for native plant materials, and promote a preference for their use in federal restoration activities. We are now in the process of sharing this proposed legislation with other like-minded groups with the aim of developing a list of organizations that support this proposal. We are also beginning outreach to Congress to identify elected officials who might serve as champions (sponsors) of a bill.

As we work to grow support for this bill, we are asking for your consideration and, specifically, whether your organization is interested in adding its name as a supporter of the legislative proposal. I have attached the bill draft as well as a short summary of its contents. Please review this, contact me with questions or concerns, and consider whether this approach is something you/your organization can endorse. I should also note that some of the details or particulars in the actual bill may change as we move forward in the process, in which case all endorsing organizations will be contacted to ensure their continued support of the changes.

Currently the following organizations have signed their names to this legislative proposal: American Public Gardens Association, Botanical Society of America, California Native Plant Society, Chicago Botanic Garden, Florida Native Plant Society, Garden Club of America, Institute for Applied Ecology, Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society, New England Wild Flower Society, Oklahoma Native Plant Society, Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, Virginia Native Plant Society, and Washington Native Plant Society

And it is currently under consideration by numerous other organizations around the country.

Thank you for your consideration. Messages of support should be sent to Kay Havens at Chicago Botanic Garden (khavens@chicagobotanic.org), along with a 1-2 sentence summary about your organization and the audience(s) it serves.