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On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1131

I first encountered Chintimini Wildlife Center early one snowy morning in February this year. I had found a badly injured red tail hawk that urgently needed attention. The Chintimini team responded quickly and with compassion to evaluate the bird, sadly the injuries were overwhelming and the bird died. Nevertheless I am grateful to the Chintimini Center for their dedication to the care of injured wildlife, they were there when needed!

I am also impressed by the educational outreach that Chintimini already achieves despite very limited resources and clearly the facilities they have need upgrading and expanding.

I used to live in Bend where the High Desert Museum is a very valuable resource for the community and I volunteered there for a number of years. I was privileged to work with the wildlife programs, primarily with the birds of prey (raptors) in particular giving talks about individual birds and also narrating for the free flight show held daily through the summer months. This show is tremendously popular and attracts audiences both from the local community and in Oregon but also from across the world. The educational opportunity these programs offer, be they talks to a small group of people or a couple of hundred attending the flight show, is tremendous - you rarely see people scrolling on their cell phones - all eyes are on the birds!

I sincerely hope that Senate Bill 1131 is passed: this would provide funds to help the Chintimini Center continue its essential wildlife rescue and rehabilitation work and also to provide opportunities for people to learn more about the creatures that live alongside us (humans) in Oregon. This will help foster a greater appreciation of our natural environment which is essential to our long term well being.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.