

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

Dear Chair Gordon and Members of the Committee,

I am writing today in strong support of Senate Bill 1131, which would provide essential grant funding for the Chintimini Wildlife Center (CWC) in Corvallis, Oregon. As a law enforcement officer serving in the Willamette Valley, I can personally attest to the critical role that CWC plays in supporting both public safety and wildlife protection throughout our region.

Law enforcement agencies frequently receive calls from the public regarding injured or orphaned wildlife—ranging from owls, hawks, and eagles to mammals of all sizes. Without the Chintimini Wildlife Center, we would have no local resources to turn to. CWC is the only facility in our area equipped and authorized to accept and rehabilitate these animals, often during evenings or weekends when other services are unavailable.

I have personally utilized the center's emergency drop-off location multiple times, once bringing in an injured owl late at night. Thanks to the staff and volunteers at CWC, the owl was successfully rehabilitated and I was able to be involved in its release—a powerful reminder of the center's impact. Additionally, CWC has provided specialized training to our agency on how to safely rescue, temporarily care for, and transport injured or orphaned wildlife—training we otherwise would not have access to as this type of material is not included in general law enforcement training.

CWC is an irreplaceable resource not only for law enforcement but also for the broader community. Senate Bill 1131 would ensure that this vital service can continue operating and expanding its reach. I respectfully urge you to support this bill and help safeguard Oregon's wildlife and the public servants who often serve as first responders in wildlife emergencies and would have no other option for rescuing these amazing creatures.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Doug Seirup
Law Enforcement Officer in the Willamette Valley