

**Dear Chair Golden and Members of the Committee,**

I am writing today in strong support of **Senate Bill 1131**, which would provide critical funding to the **Chintimini Wildlife Center (CWC)**—one of the last comprehensive wildlife rescue and rehabilitation centers still operating in the Willamette Valley. I have previously served as a volunteer, staff member, and Interim Executive Director of CWC, and remain deeply committed to the mission of this organization and the role it plays in our community.

**Oregon is facing a growing wildlife emergency.** Wildfires, habitat destruction, and the closure of nearby rescue centers have left a large gap in care for our native wildlife. As wildlife rehabilitation centers across the region have been forced to close, more Oregonians are left without expert support and are often forced to attempt wildlife rehabilitation themselves—without proper training, equipment, or legal permits—**increasing risk to both humans and animals, including exposure to zoonotic diseases** such as avian influenza.

**CWC is the only remaining facility in this region equipped to provide comprehensive rescue, rehabilitation, and emergency response to native birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians.**

As human-wildlife interaction increases, so do the threats to animals: vehicle strikes, window collisions, entanglements, nest destruction, and more. **CWC steps in to provide both immediate medical care and public guidance**, walking community members through appropriate action in both emergency and non-emergency wildlife encounters.

Despite being **permitted and regularly monitored by multiple governing agencies**, Chintimini Wildlife Center receives **no public funding**. It relies heavily on the support of **generous community members and over 100 dedicated volunteers to operate its services**. CWC also offers and relies on its **internship programs for emerging professionals**, helping to grow the next generation of wildlife experts, conservationists, and veterinary professionals—an investment in Oregon's future workforce and environmental leadership.

Beyond rescue and rehabilitation, **CWC provides accessible wildlife education** for people of all ages and backgrounds: partnerships with Corvallis School District, on-site and traveling youth programs, visits to senior living facilities and law enforcement agencies, programming for people in custody, and much more. It also helped to create the [Agriculture and Wildlife Protection Program \(AWPP\)](#), a regional partnership that provides non-lethal tools and grants to farmers—helping protect livestock and crops while preserving native predators and promoting coexistence.

Oregonians take pride in our rich biodiversity and wild spaces. **Senate Bill 1131 represents a chance to turn our values into tangible support**, helping CWC build long-term sustainability through expanded wildlife enclosures, educational facilities, and greater public access to experience and appreciate the wild animals we share our home with.

Please support this bill and invest in the people, places, and programs that keep Oregon's wildlife thriving.

**Sincerely,**  
Erika Seirup