

Submitter: Jackie Sanchez

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Natural
Resources

Measure: SB5509

To whom it may concern,

I wanted to write to you all about my time volunteering with the Wildlife Center of the North Coast in hopes that it will give you tangible information about the good the center does, and the good this funding would do. Throughout the year, we see a variety of birds that are at their worst, having blown out of their nests, blown off the ocean during a migration pattern, hit by cars, attacked by cats or other predators, or stuck in electrical lines. Through the dedication of the small staff and army of volunteers, we help these birds heal, recover, and then thrive such that we can release them back to the wild found on the coast. This includes things like careful and thoughtful treatment plans depending on the ailment, providing baths and controlled swim times for sea birds to re-establish their waterproofing, or giving space and time for raptors to learn how to hunt for themselves. And it requires lots of cleaning and loads of laundry for all the poop! But their survival is critical to the ecosystem of our coastline. Further, the center's survival is critical in a community that cares deeply about helping injured or sick animals - it's truly amazing how many people call the center and are willing to transport an animal to us for help on their beach day or vacation weekend. And this funding would go so far in being able to support more birds with better care.

My time at the center has become one of the highlights of my week, and there are few things these days that seem more deserving of support than a place solely dedicated to helping the wildlife with whom we share our beautiful state. Please consider including the funding in the upcoming budget.