



Center for Great Apes  
Wauchula, FL  
*Patti Ragan, Founder*

Chimpanzee Sanctuary  
Northwest  
Cle Elum, WA  
*JB Mulcahy, Co-Director*

Chimp Haven  
Keithville, LA  
*Cathy Spraez,  
President and CEO*

Chimps, Inc.  
Bend, OR  
*Lesley Day, Founder*

Cleveland Amory Black  
Beauty Ranch  
Murchison, TX  
*Noelle Almrud,  
Director of Animal Care*

Fauna Foundation  
Quebec, Canada  
*Gloria Grow, Founder*

Jungle Friends  
Gainesville, FL  
*Kari Bagnall, Founder*

Primate Rescue Center  
Nicholasville, KY  
*April Truitt, Founder*

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*Erika Fleury  
Program Manager*

April 3, 2015

Dear Governor Hutchinson,

The North American Primate Sanctuary Alliance (NAPSA) is a coalition of eight of the leading primate sanctuaries on the continent. NAPSA member sanctuaries care for several hundred primates retired from biomedical research, entertainment, and private ownership, including those residing at Chimp Haven, the national chimpanzee sanctuary.

We are extremely grateful for the legislation Arkansas has passed thus far restricting the private ownership of primates. Currently, exemptions are only granted to organizations with high standards of care and transparency, such as sanctuaries and institutions that are accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

We recently learned about HB 1551. Because this bill would grant exemptions to a larger population of exotic animal owners and exhibitors, it raises significant animal welfare and public safety concerns. The current law is sufficient, and any changes made should be to strengthen, not weaken the protections it provides.

NAPSA urges you to veto HB 1551.

We appreciate your leadership and thank you for your time and consideration on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Erika Fleury  
Program Manager