

April 21, 2021

Request for Funding for the Greater Toledo Aquatic and Community Center project:

Dear Chairs Johnson, Steiner-Hayward, and Rayfield, and members of the Committee:

I am pleased to submit testimony in support of the Greater Toledo Pool Recreation District's request to receive Capitol Construction and Federal Fiscal Recovery Funds for critical improvements and repairs to keep the Greater Toledo Pool facility up and operating.

As the Principal of Toledo Elementary School, I can attest to how critically important this facility is in our community. As a coastal community surrounded by the Pacific Ocean and swift, cold coastal streams, learning to swim here is less about recreation, and more about saving lives and avoiding terrible grief and heartache.

Our elementary school has a program where every student in kindergarten through second grade gets access to swimming lessons at the Greater Toledo Pool during school hours - a program that has undoubtedly saved many lives throughout its existence. We also partner with the pool for afterschool programming, which provides additional swimming instruction, exercise, and support for our youngest residents.

In rural natural resource economies like ours, we are focused on equipping our students with the skills they need to succeed as early as possible. Many of our students go on to become commercial fishermen, or join the Coast Guard. The critical skills they learn through our partnership with the renewed Greater Toledo Aquatic and Community Center will set the foundation for them to contribute meaningfully, and safely, to Oregon's economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in strong support of the Greater Toledo Pool Recreation District's funding requests, as submitted by Rep. David Gomberg. Your support will save lives and help support the workers who make Oregon's coastal economy a success.

Sincerely,

Liz Postlewait  
Principal, Toledo Elementary School